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THE NEW MUTANTS

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CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES

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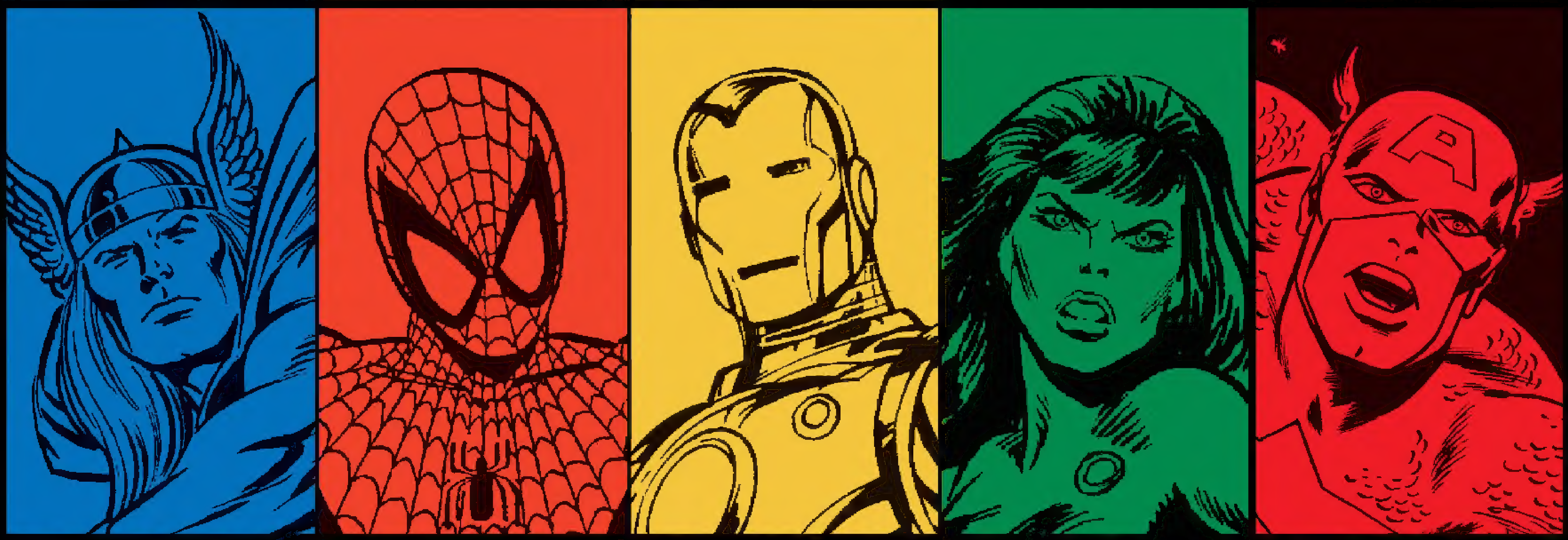

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THE NEW MUTANTS

CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES

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NEW MUTANTS: CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES

X-TERMINATORS #1, OCTOBER 1988
"INVASION OF THE BABY-SNATCHERS"

X-TERMINATORS #2, NOVEMBER 1988
"SPEED DEMON!"

X-TERMINATORS #3, DECEMBER 1988
"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?"

NEW MUTANTS #71, JANUARY 1989
"LIMBO"

X-TERMINATORS #4, JANUARY 1989
"FINALE!"

NEW MUTANTS #72, FEBRUARY 1989
"DEMON REIGN"

NEW MUTANTS #73, MARCH 1989
"THE GIFT"

NEW MUTANTS #74, APRIL 1989
"THE RIGHT STUFF"

NEW MUTANTS #75, MAY 1989
"KING OF THE HILL!"

NEW MUTANTS #76, JUNE 1989
"SPLASH!"

NEW MUTANTS #77, JULY 1989
"STRANGE!"

NEW MUTANTS #78, AUGUST 1989
"LET'S MAKE A DEAL!"

NEW MUTANTS #79, SEPTEMBER 1989
"ASGARD"

NEW MUTANTS #80, OCTOBER 1989
"CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES"

NEW MUTANTS #81, NOVEMBER 1989
"FAITH"

NEW MUTANTS #82, MID NOVEMBER 1989
"THE ROAD TO HEL..."

NEW MUTANTS #83, DECEMBER 1989
"THE QUICK AND THE DEAD"

NEW MUTANTS #84, MID DECEMBER 1989
"THE SWORD'S EDGE"

NEW MUTANTS #85, JANUARY 1990
"THE KILLING STROKE"

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FROM THE PAGES OF X-FACTOR!
X-TERMINATORS™
NOW BEGINS INFERNO™
1 OCT
CC 01039
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
INTRODUCING: THE MENACE OF N'ASTIRH!
BOGDANOVE MILGROM
TM

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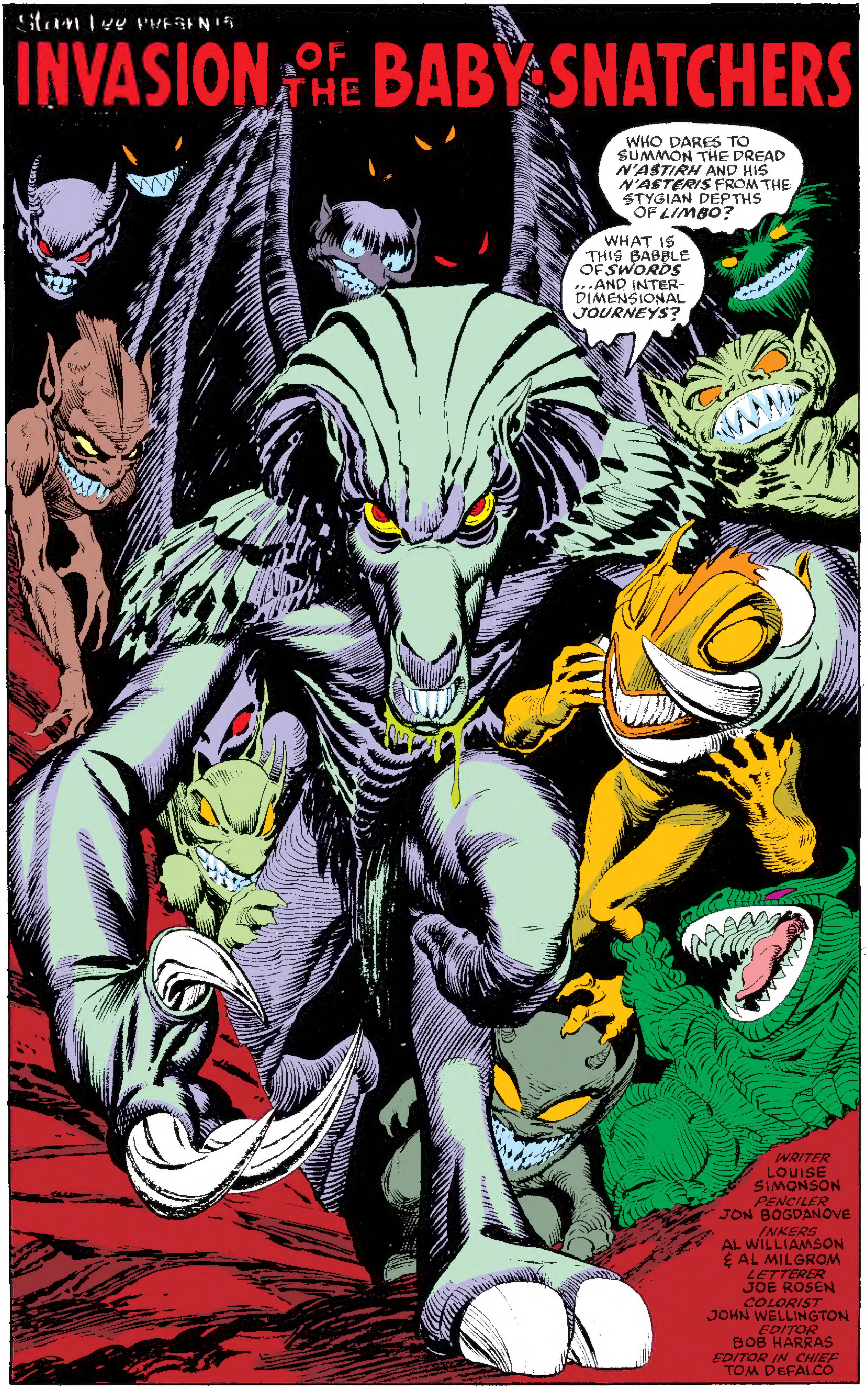
Stan Lee PRESENTS
INVASION OF THE BABY-SNATCHERS
WHO DARES TO SUMMON THE DREAD *N'ASTIRH* AND HIS *N'ASTERIS* FROM THE STYGIAN DEPTHS OF *LIMBO?*
WHAT IS THIS BABBLE OF *SWORDS* ...AND INTER-DIMENSIONAL *JOURNEYS?*
WRITER LOUISE SIMONSON
PENCILER JON BOGDANOVE
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LETTERER JOE ROSEN
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EDITOR BOB HARRAS
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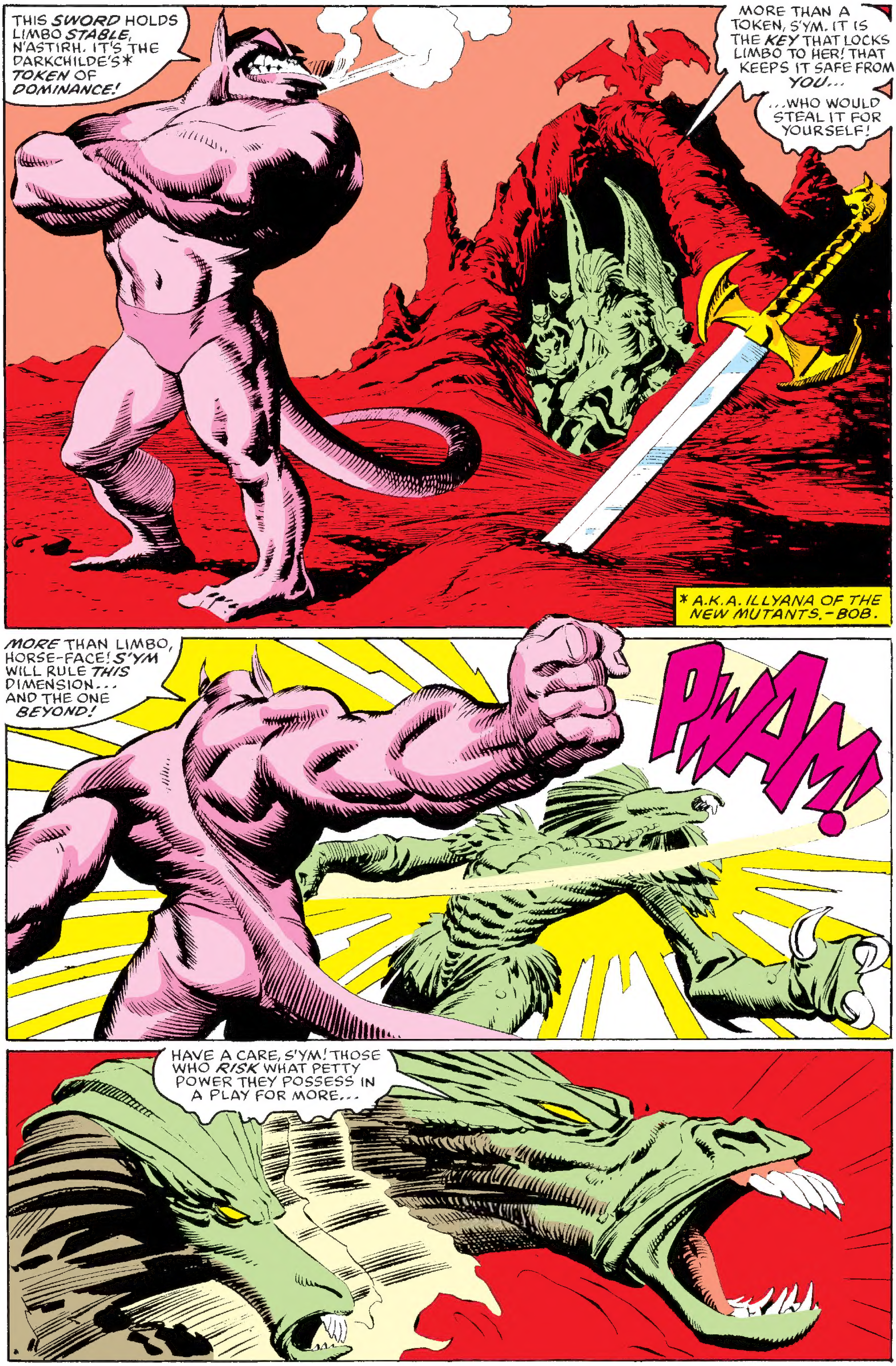
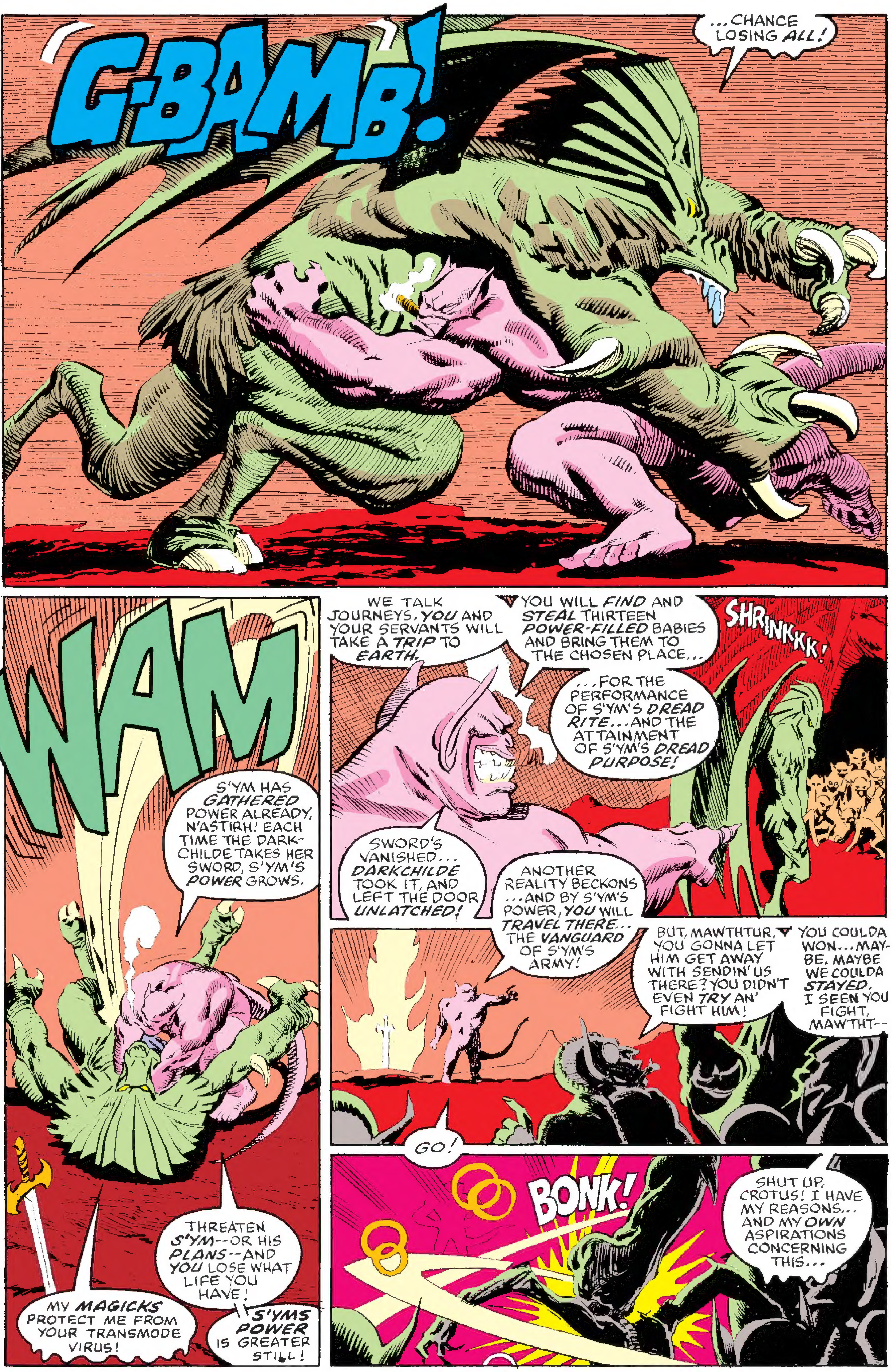
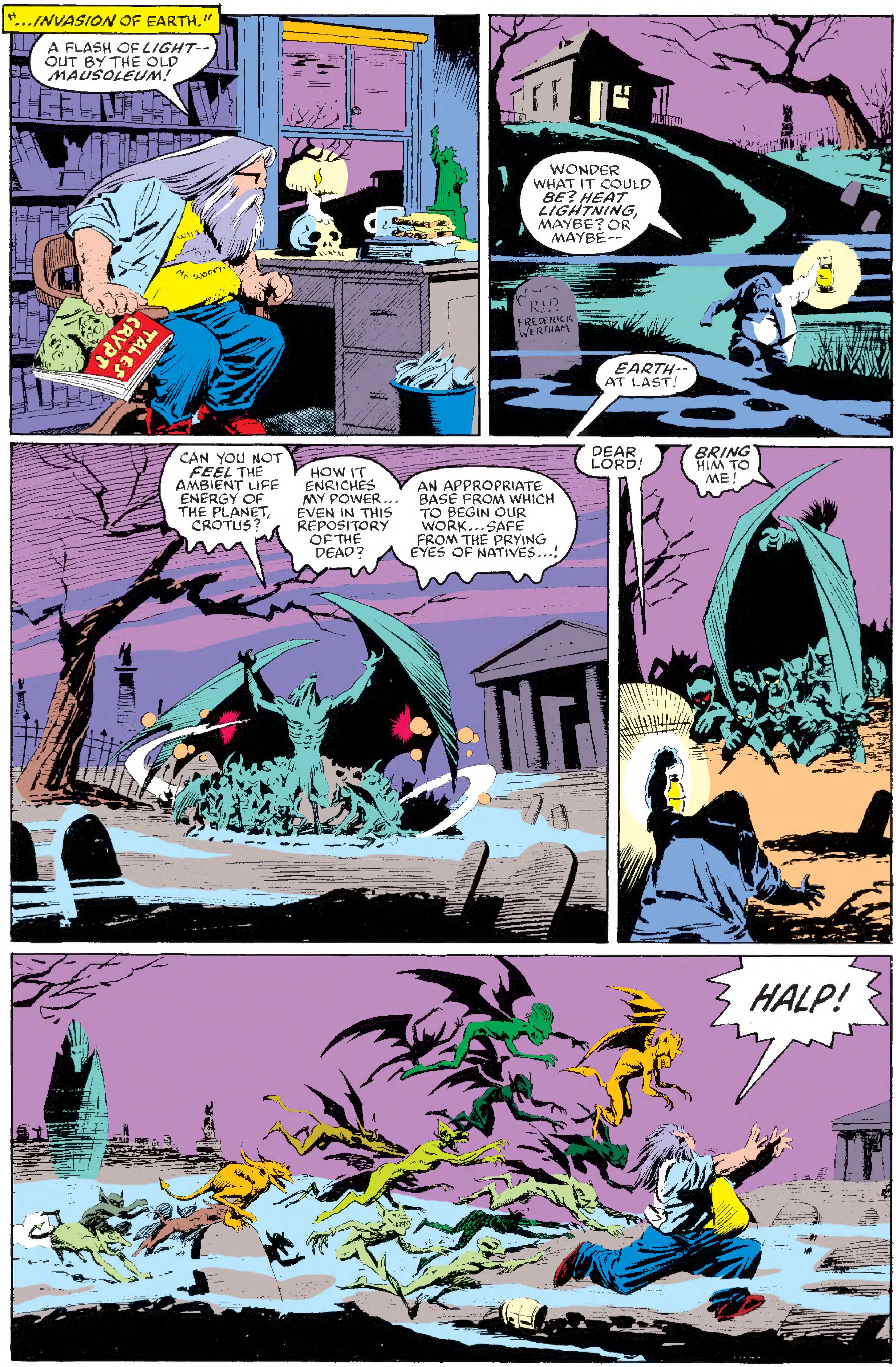
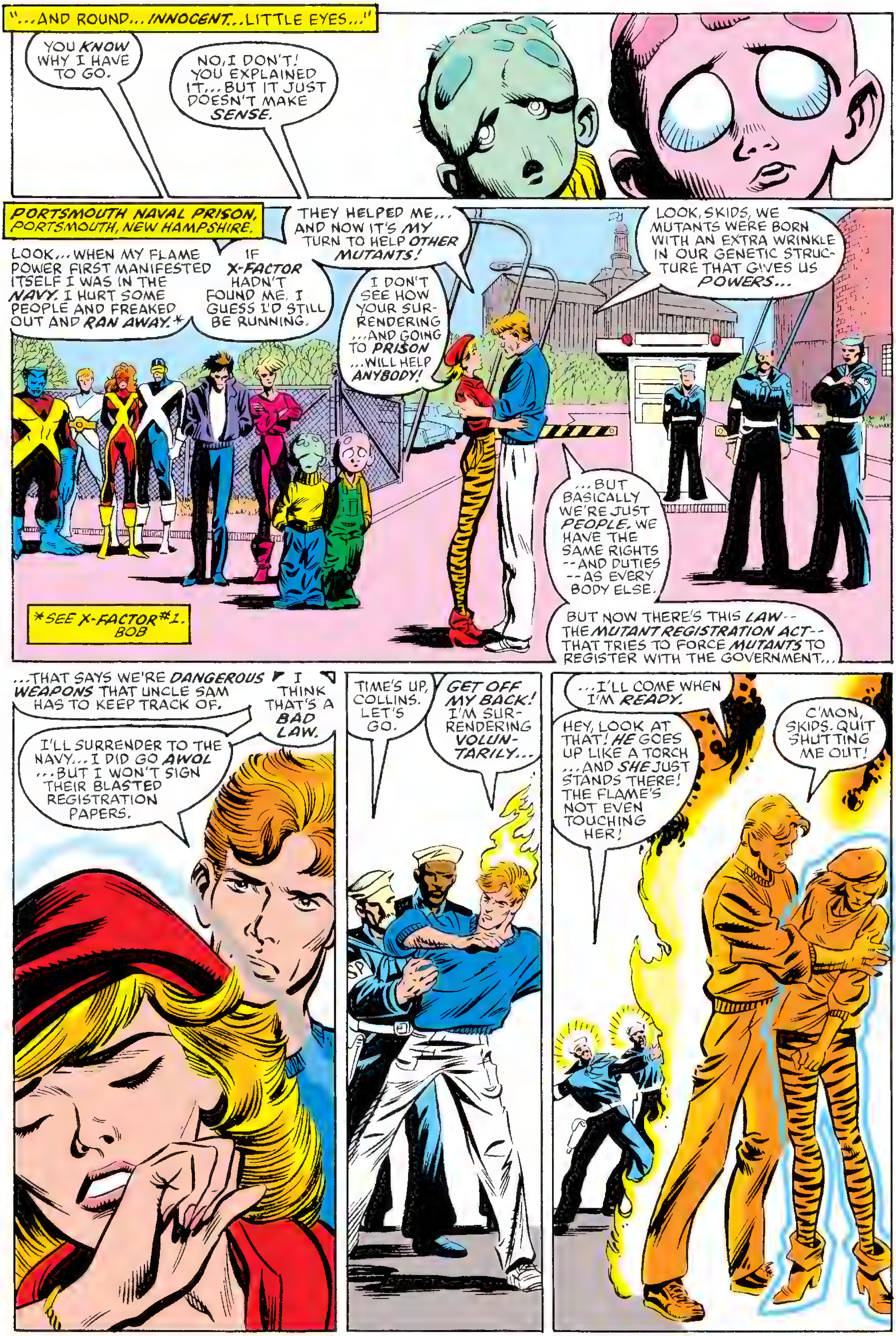
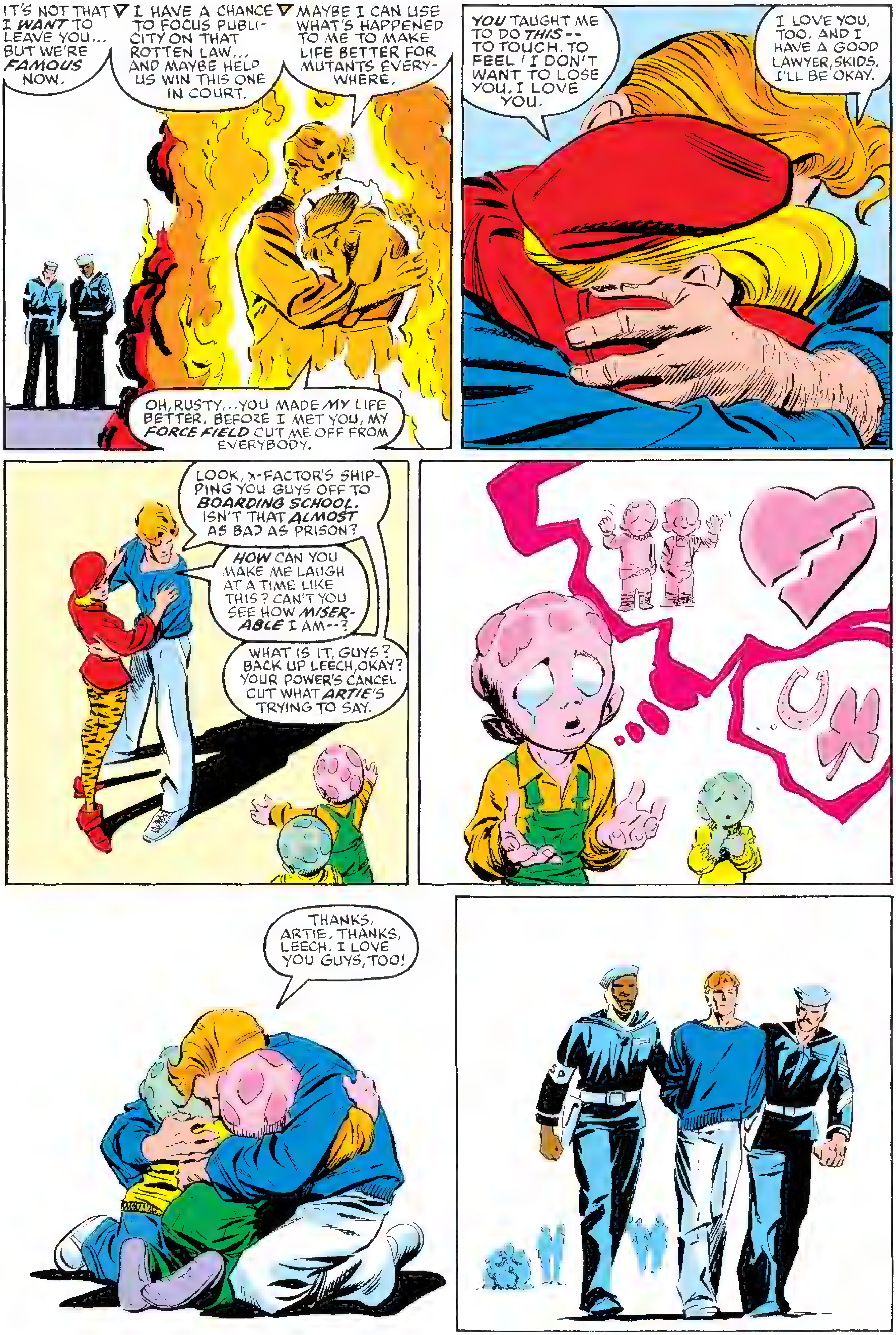

THIS *SWORD* HOLDS LIMBO *STABLE*, N'ASTIRH. IT'S THE DARKCHILDE'S* *TOKEN* OF *DOMINANCE!*
MORE THAN A TOKEN, S'YM. IT IS THE *KEY* THAT LOCKS LIMBO TO HER! THAT KEEPS IT SAFE FROM *YOU*...
...WHO WOULD STEAL IT FOR YOURSELF!
* A.K.A. ILLYANA OF THE NEW MUTANTS. -BOB.
MORE THAN LIMBO, HORSE-FACE! *S'YM* WILL RULE *THIS* DIMENSION... AND THE ONE *BEYOND!*
PWAM!
HAVE A CARE, S'YM! THOSE WHO *RISK* WHAT PETTY POWER THEY POSSESS IN A PLAY FOR MORE...

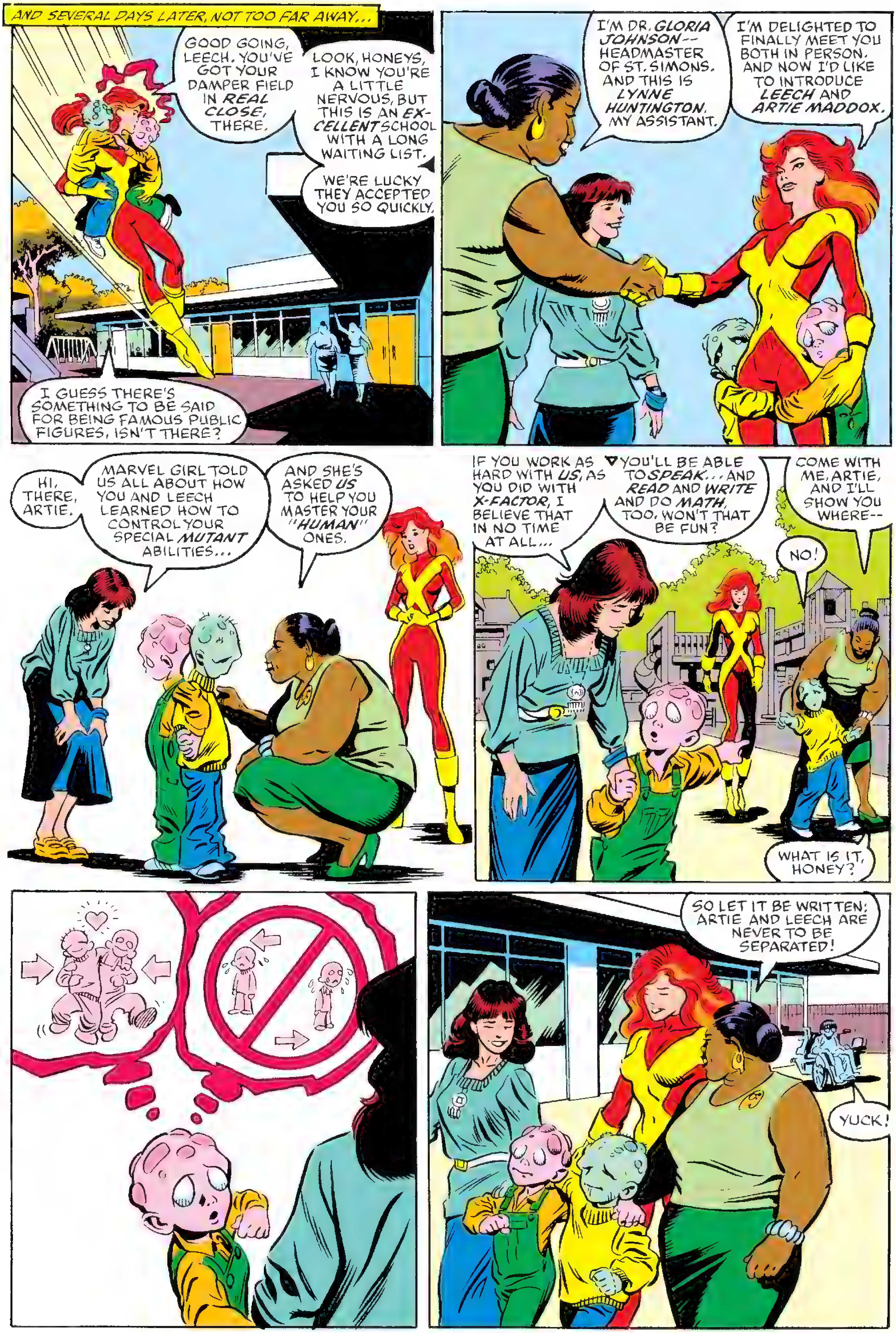

G-BAMB!
...CHANCE LOSING ALL!
WAM
S'YM HAS GATHERED POWER ALREADY, N'ASTIRH! EACH TIME THE DARKCHILDE TAKES HER SWORD, S'YM'S POWER GROWS.
THREATEN S'YM--OR HIS PLANS--AND YOU LOSE WHAT LIFE YOU HAVE!
MY MAGICKS PROTECT ME FROM YOUR TRANSMODE VIRUS!
S'YMS POWER IS GREATER STILL!
WE TALK JOURNEYS. YOU AND YOUR SERVANTS WILL TAKE A TRIP TO EARTH.
YOU WILL FIND AND STEAL THIRTEEN POWER-FILLED BABIES AND BRING THEM TO THE CHOSEN PLACE...
...FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF S'YM'S DREAD RITE...AND THE ATTAINMENT OF S'YM'S DREAD PURPOSE!
SHRINKKK!
SWORD'S VANISHED... DARKCHILDE TOOK IT, AND LEFT THE DOOR UNLATCHED!
ANOTHER REALITY BECKONS ...AND BY S'YM'S POWER, YOU WILL TRAVEL THERE... THE VANGUARD OF S'YM'S ARMY!
BUT, MAWTHTUR, YOU GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY WITH SENDIN' US THERE? YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY AN' FIGHT HIM!
YOU COULDA WON...MAYBE. MAYBE WE COULDA STAYED. I SEEN YOU FIGHT, MAWTHT--
GO!
BONK!
SHUT UP, CROTUS! I HAVE MY REASONS... AND MY OWN ASPIRATIONS CONCERNING THIS...

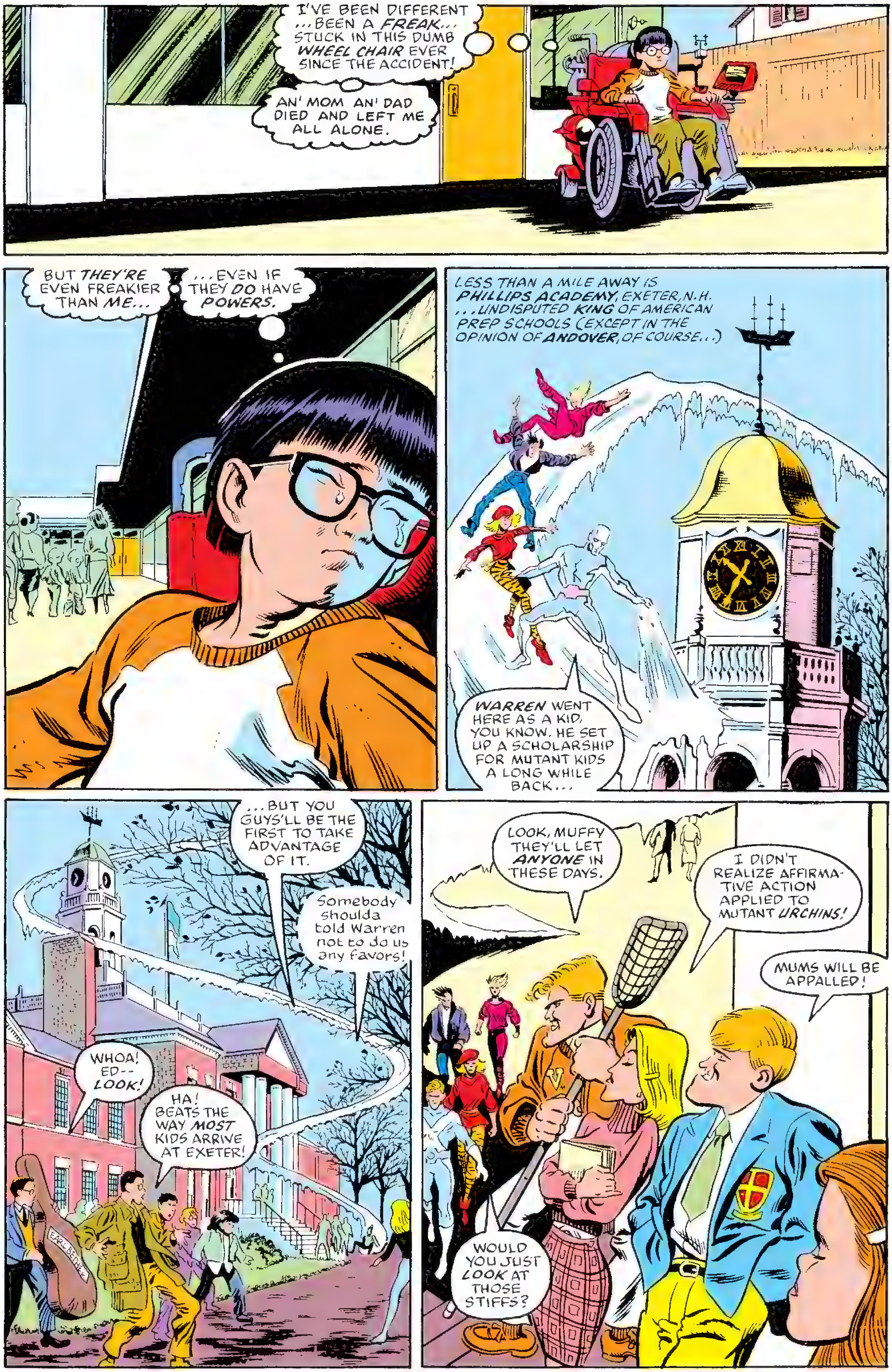

"...INVASION OF EARTH."
A FLASH OF LIGHT-- OUT BY THE OLD MAUSOLEUM!
TALES FROM THE CRYPT
WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE? HEAT LIGHTNING, MAYBE? OR MAYBE--
R.I.P. FREDERICK WERTHAM
EARTH-- AT LAST!
CAN YOU NOT FEEL THE AMBIENT LIFE ENERGY OF THE PLANET, CROTUS?
HOW IT ENRICHES MY POWER... EVEN IN THIS REPOSITORY OF THE DEAD?
AN APPROPRIATE BASE FROM WHICH TO BEGIN OUR WORK...SAFE FROM THE PRYING EYES OF NATIVES...!
DEAR LORD!
BRING HIM TO ME!
HALP!

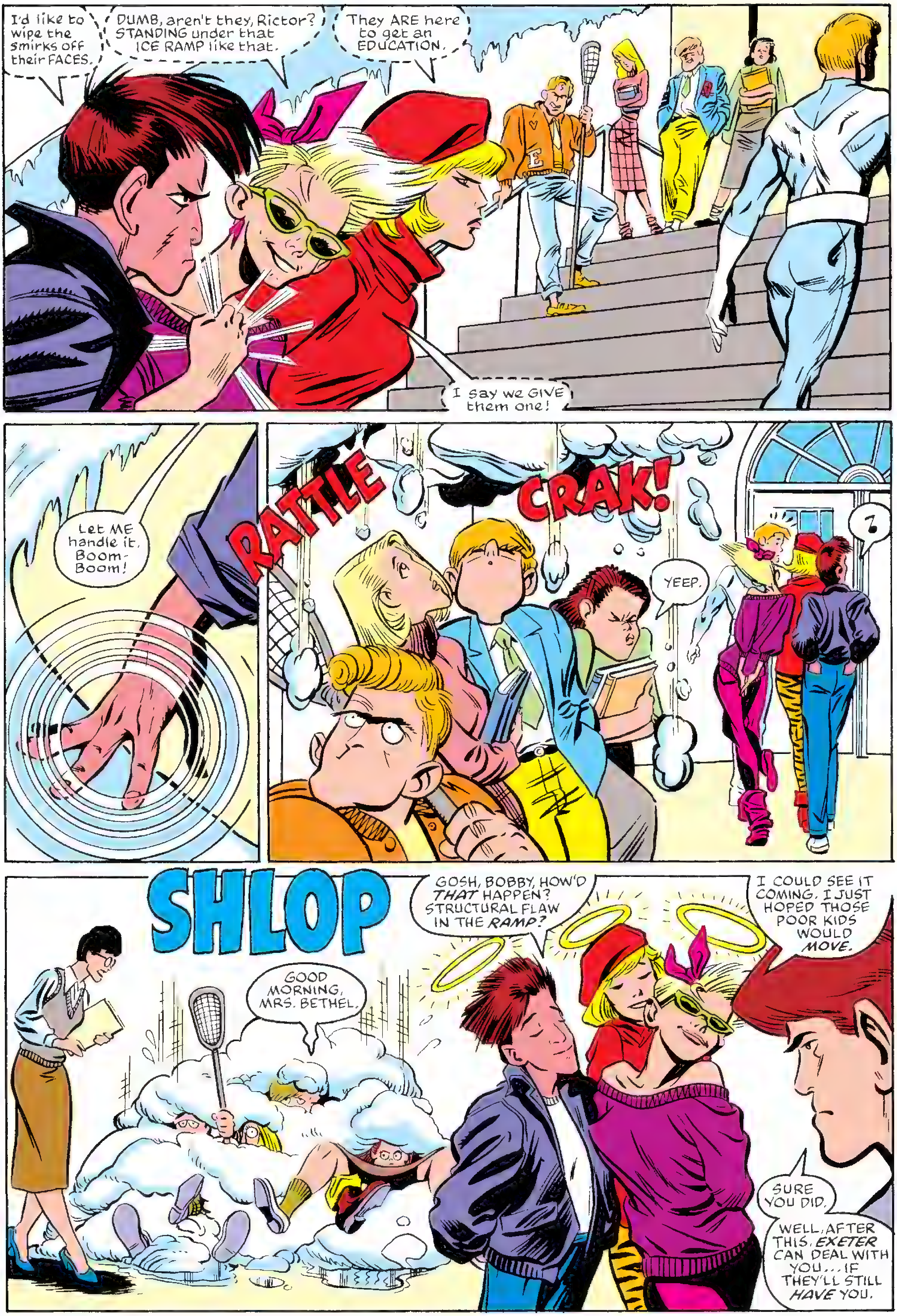
PATHETIC EARTHLING... WHAT IS YOUR *NAME*?
B-BILL...?
EXCELLENT! WE NEED A *GUIDE*, BILL. SOMEONE ...FAMILIAR WITH THIS WORLD.
MMMPH--?
YES, YOU. BUT FIRST YOU MUST JOIN US.
BITS OF YOUR HEART... PIECES OF YOUR FLESH ALREADY FIT THE MOLD.
I HAVE BUT TO *SHEER AWAY* THE REST--
NOOO! KEEP BACK! *YAAARGH!*
SKLURCH!
--TO FREE THE *DEMON* WITHIN!
NO WORD OF THANKS? TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE YOU CAN NO LONGER *SPEAK*.
JOIN YOUR COMPANIONS. HENCEFORTH YOU WILL SERVE THE *N'ASTIRI*... AS *ONE* OF US.
I REQUIRE THIRTEEN *INFANTS* OF *POWER* AND *PURITY! FIND THEM!* BRING THEM HERE TO *ME!*
BUT, MAWTHTUR --HOW WILL WE *KNOW* THEM?
YOUR *SENSES* WILL LEAD YOU TO THEM. YOU WILL *TASTE* THEIR POWER!
LIKE *THIS*, MAWTHTUR? HAVE I *FOUND* ONE?
SLURP
FOOLS! CRETINS! *INCOMPETENTS!* THE ONES YOU SEEK ARE *HUMAN*... MUCH LIKE OUR NEW FRIEND *BILL*...
...ONLY SMALL... WITH LARGE HEADS... NO HAIR...

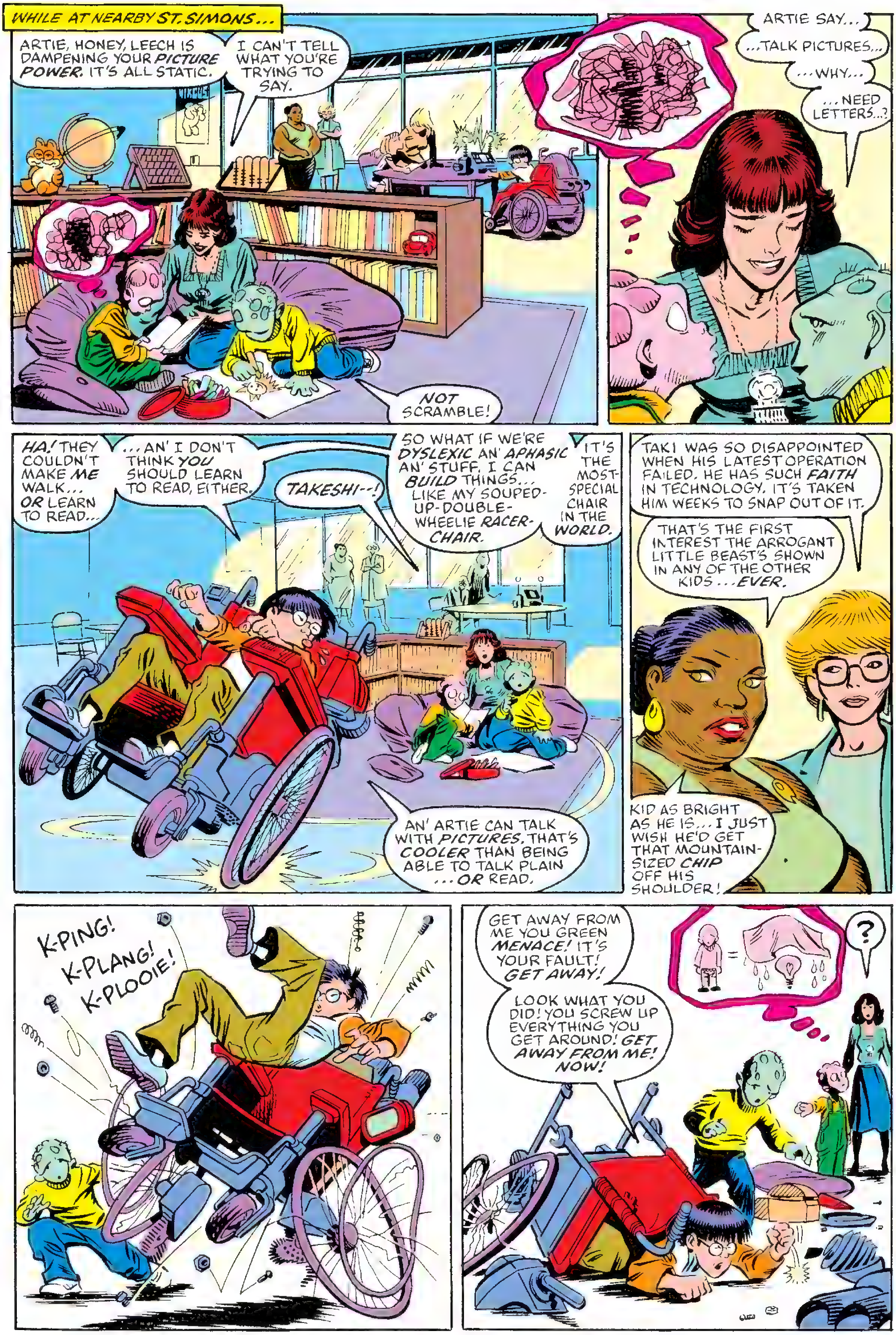

"...AND ROUND... INNOCENT... LITTLE EYES..."
YOU KNOW WHY I HAVE TO GO.
NO, I DON'T! YOU EXPLAINED IT... BUT IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL PRISON, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE.
LOOK... WHEN MY FLAME POWER FIRST MANIFESTED ITSELF I WAS IN THE NAVY. I HURT SOME PEOPLE AND FREAKED OUT AND RAN AWAY.*
IF X-FACTOR HADN'T FOUND ME, I GUESS I'D STILL BE RUNNING.
THEY HELPED ME... AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO HELP OTHER MUTANTS!
I DON'T SEE HOW YOUR SURRENDERING ...AND GOING TO PRISON ...WILL HELP ANYBODY!
LOOK, SKIDS, WE MUTANTS WERE BORN WITH AN EXTRA WRINKLE IN OUR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES US POWERS...
...BUT BASICALLY WE'RE JUST PEOPLE. WE HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS --AND DUTIES --AS EVERY BODY ELSE.
BUT NOW THERE'S THIS LAW-- THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT-- THAT TRIES TO FORCE MUTANTS TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT...
*SEE X-FACTOR #1. BOB
...THAT SAYS WE'RE DANGEROUS WEAPONS THAT UNCLE SAM HAS TO KEEP TRACK OF.
I THINK THAT'S A BAD LAW.
I'LL SURRENDER TO THE NAVY... I DID GO AWOL ...BUT I WON'T SIGN THEIR BLASTED REGISTRATION PAPERS.
TIME'S UP, COLLINS. LET'S GO.
GET OFF MY BACK! I'M SURRENDERING VOLUNTARILY...
...I'LL COME WHEN I'M READY.
HEY, LOOK AT THAT! HE GOES UP LIKE A TORCH ...AND SHE JUST STANDS THERE! THE FLAME'S NOT EVEN TOUCHING HER!
C'MON, SKIDS. QUIT SHUTTING ME OUT!
SP

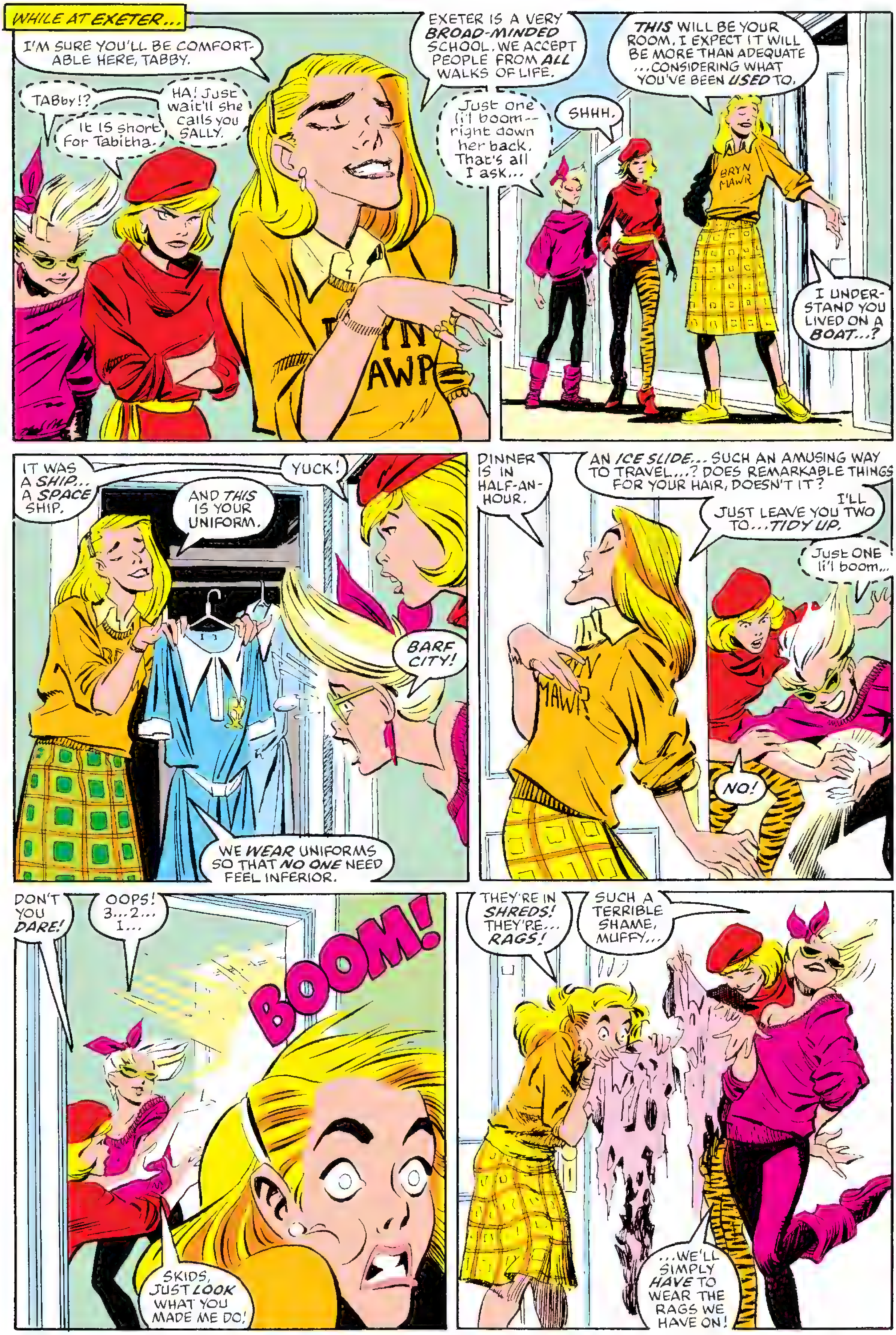

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO LEAVE YOU... BUT WE'RE FAMOUS NOW.
I HAVE A CHANCE TO FOCUS PUBLICITY ON THAT ROTTEN LAW... AND MAYBE HELP US WIN THIS ONE IN COURT.
MAYBE I CAN USE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR MUTANTS EVERYWHERE.
OH, RUSTY... YOU MADE MY LIFE BETTER. BEFORE I MET YOU, MY FORCE FIELD CUT ME OFF FROM EVERYBODY.
YOU TAUGHT ME TO DO THIS-- TO TOUCH. TO FEEL ! I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU. I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, TOO. AND I HAVE A GOOD LAWYER, SKIDS. I'LL BE OKAY.
LOOK, X-FACTOR'S SHIPPING YOU GUYS OFF TO BOARDING SCHOOL. ISN'T THAT ALMOST AS BAD AS PRISON?
HOW CAN YOU MAKE ME LAUGH AT A TIME LIKE THIS? CAN'T YOU SEE HOW MISERABLE I AM--?
WHAT IS IT, GUYS? BACK UP LEECH, OKAY? YOUR POWER'S CANCELLING OUT WHAT ARTIE'S TRYING TO SAY.
THANKS, ARTIE. THANKS, LEECH. I LOVE YOU GUYS, TOO!
SP

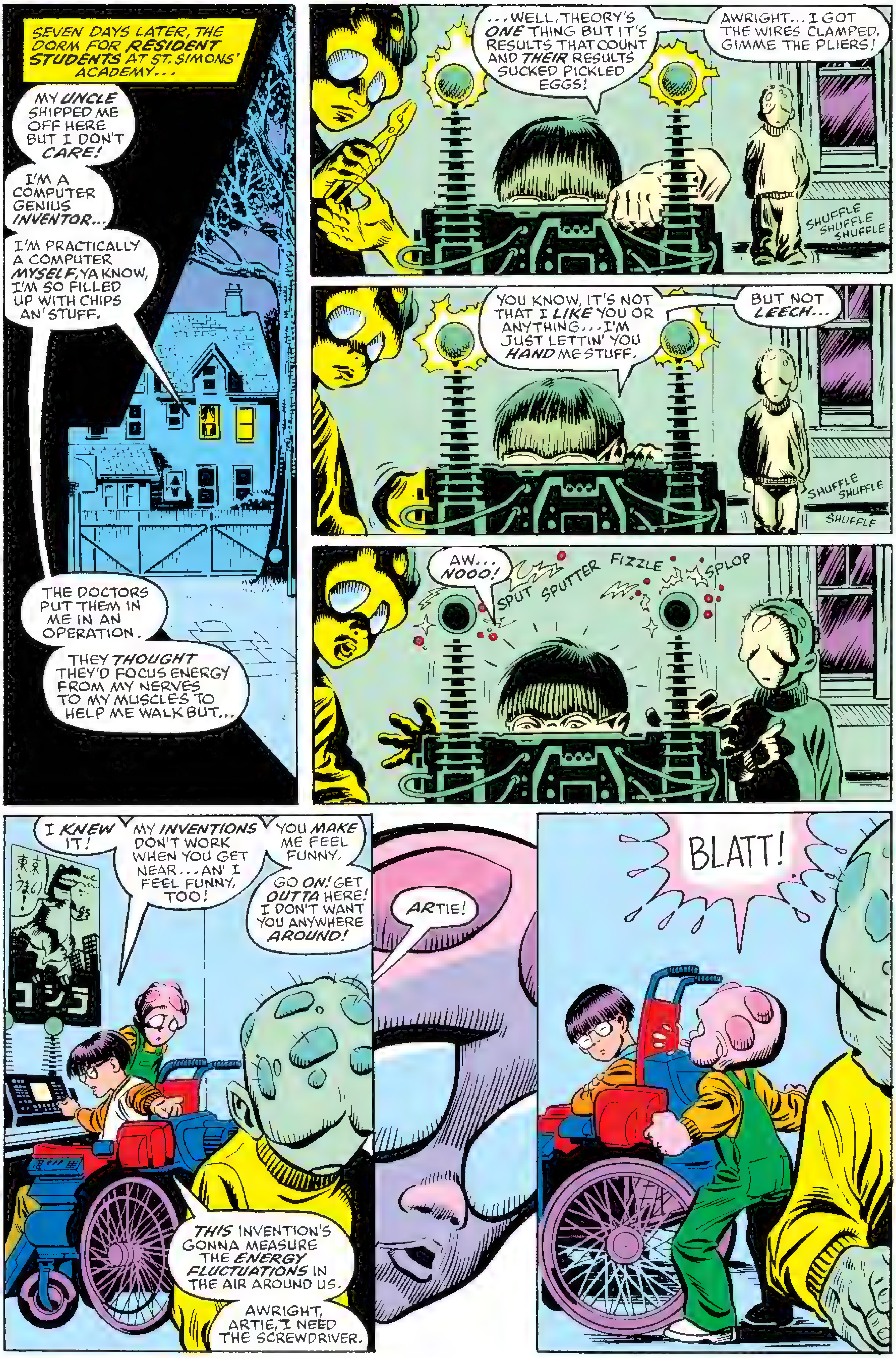

AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER, NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
GOOD GOING, LEECH. YOU'VE GOT YOUR DAMPER FIELD IN *REAL CLOSE*, THERE.
LOOK, HONEYS, I KNOW YOU'RE A LITTLE NERVOUS, BUT THIS IS AN *EXCELLENT* SCHOOL WITH A LONG WAITING LIST.
WE'RE LUCKY THEY ACCEPTED YOU SO QUICKLY.
I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR BEING FAMOUS PUBLIC FIGURES, ISN'T THERE?
I'M DR. *GLORIA JOHNSON*-- HEADMASTER OF ST. SIMONS. AND THIS IS *LYNNE HUNTINGTON*, MY ASSISTANT.
I'M DELIGHTED TO FINALLY MEET YOU BOTH IN PERSON. AND NOW I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE *LEECH* AND *ARTIE MADDOX*.
HI, THERE, ARTIE.
MARVEL GIRL TOLD US ALL ABOUT HOW YOU AND LEECH LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL YOUR SPECIAL *MUTANT* ABILITIES...
AND SHE'S ASKED *US* TO HELP YOU MASTER YOUR "*HUMAN*" ONES.
IF YOU WORK AS HARD WITH *US*, AS YOU DID WITH *X-FACTOR*, I BELIEVE THAT IN NO TIME AT ALL...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO *SPEAK*... AND *READ* AND *WRITE* AND DO *MATH*, TOO. WON'T THAT BE FUN?
COME WITH ME, ARTIE, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE--
NO!
WHAT IS IT, HONEY?
SO LET IT BE WRITTEN: ARTIE AND LEECH ARE NEVER TO BE SEPARATED!
YUCK!

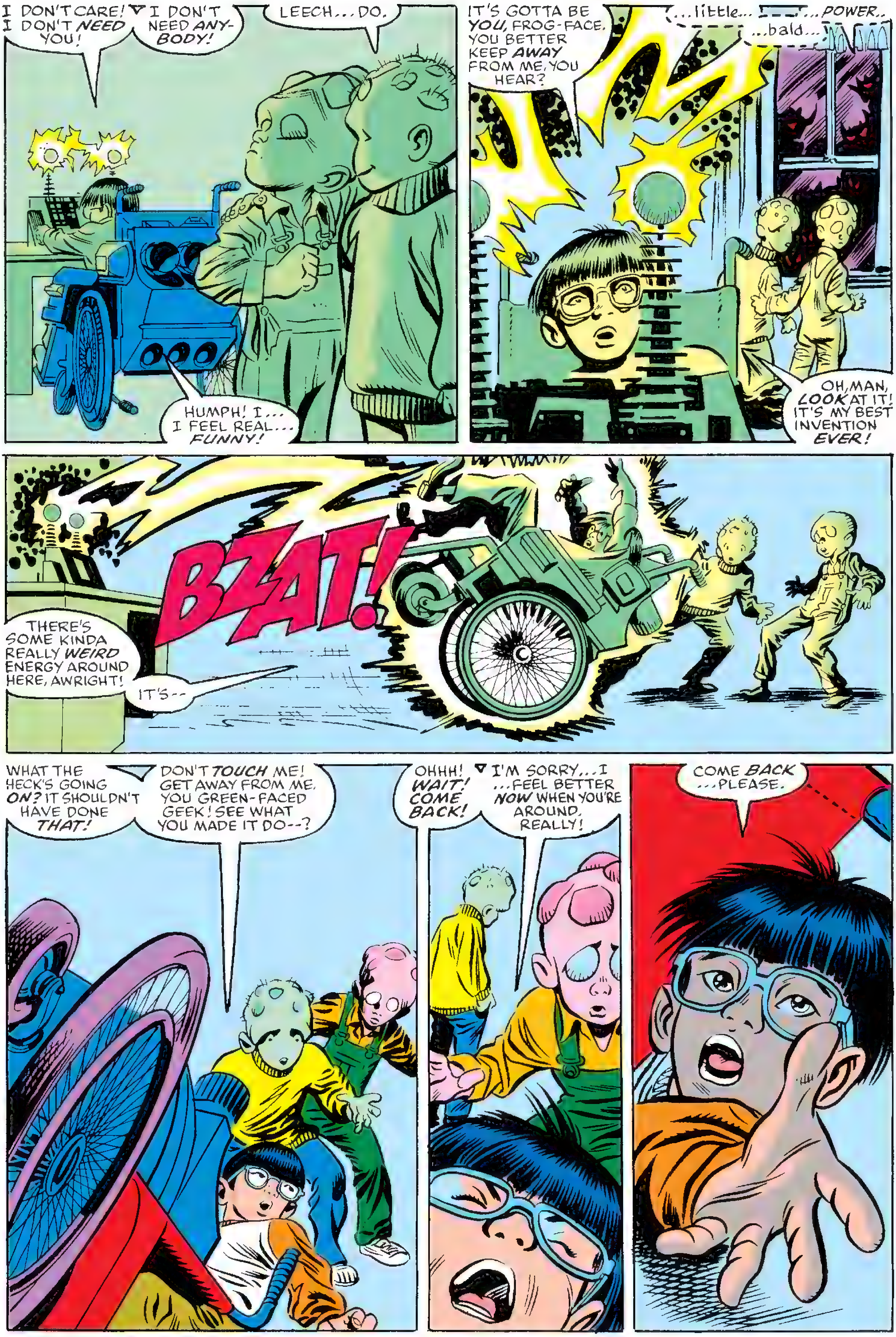

I'VE BEEN DIFFERENT ...BEEN A *FREAK*... STUCK IN THIS DUMB *WHEEL CHAIR* EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT!
AN' MOM AN' DAD DIED AND LEFT ME ALL ALONE.
BUT *THEY'RE* EVEN FREAKIER THAN *ME*...
...EVEN IF THEY *DO* HAVE *POWERS*.
LESS THAN A MILE AWAY IS *PHILLIPS ACADEMY*, EXETER, N.H. ...UNDISPUTED *KING* OF AMERICAN PREP SCHOOLS (EXCEPT IN THE OPINION OF *ANDOVER*, OF COURSE...)
WARREN WENT HERE AS A KID, YOU KNOW. HE SET UP A SCHOLARSHIP FOR MUTANT KIDS A LONG WHILE BACK...
...BUT YOU GUYS'LL BE THE FIRST TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
Somebody shoulda told Warren not to do us any favors!
WHOA! ED-- *LOOK!*
HA! BEATS THE WAY *MOST* KIDS ARRIVE AT EXETER!
LOOK, MUFFY. THEY'LL LET *ANYONE* IN THESE DAYS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION APPLIED TO MUTANT *URCHINS!*
MUMS WILL BE APPALLED!
WOULD YOU JUST *LOOK* AT THOSE STIFFS?

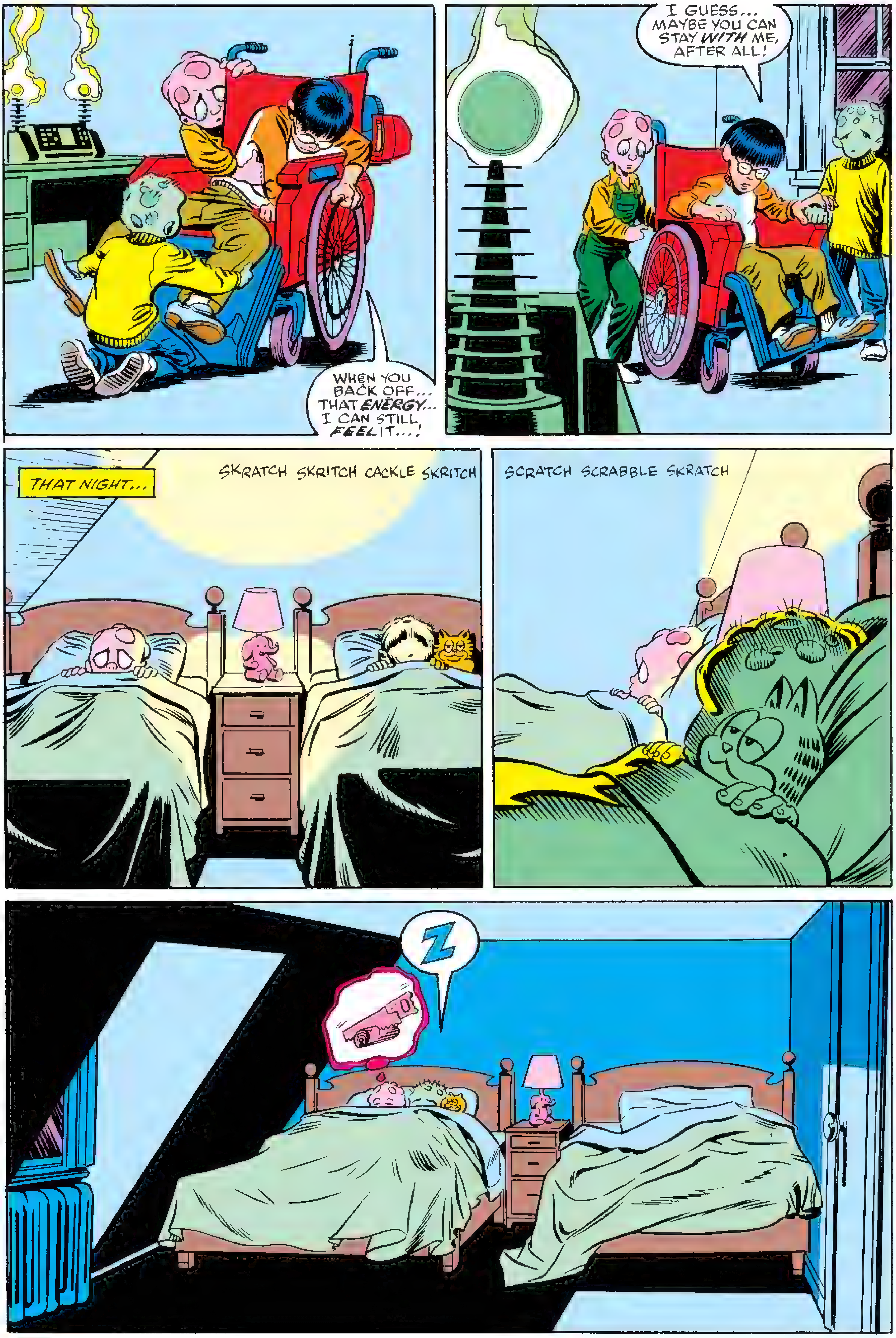

I'd like to wipe the smirks off their FACES.
DUMB, aren't they, Rictor? STANDING under that ICE RAMP like that.
They ARE here to get an EDUCATION.
I say we GIVE them one!
Let ME handle it, Boom-Boom!
RATTLE
CRAK!
YEEP.
?
SHLOP
GOSH, BOBBY, HOW'D *THAT* HAPPEN? STRUCTURAL FLAW IN THE *RAMP?*
I COULD SEE IT COMING. I JUST HOPED THOSE POOR KIDS WOULD *MOVE.*
GOOD MORNING, MRS. BETHEL.
SURE YOU DID.
WELL, AFTER THIS, *EXETER* CAN DEAL WITH YOU... IF THEY'LL STILL *HAVE* YOU.

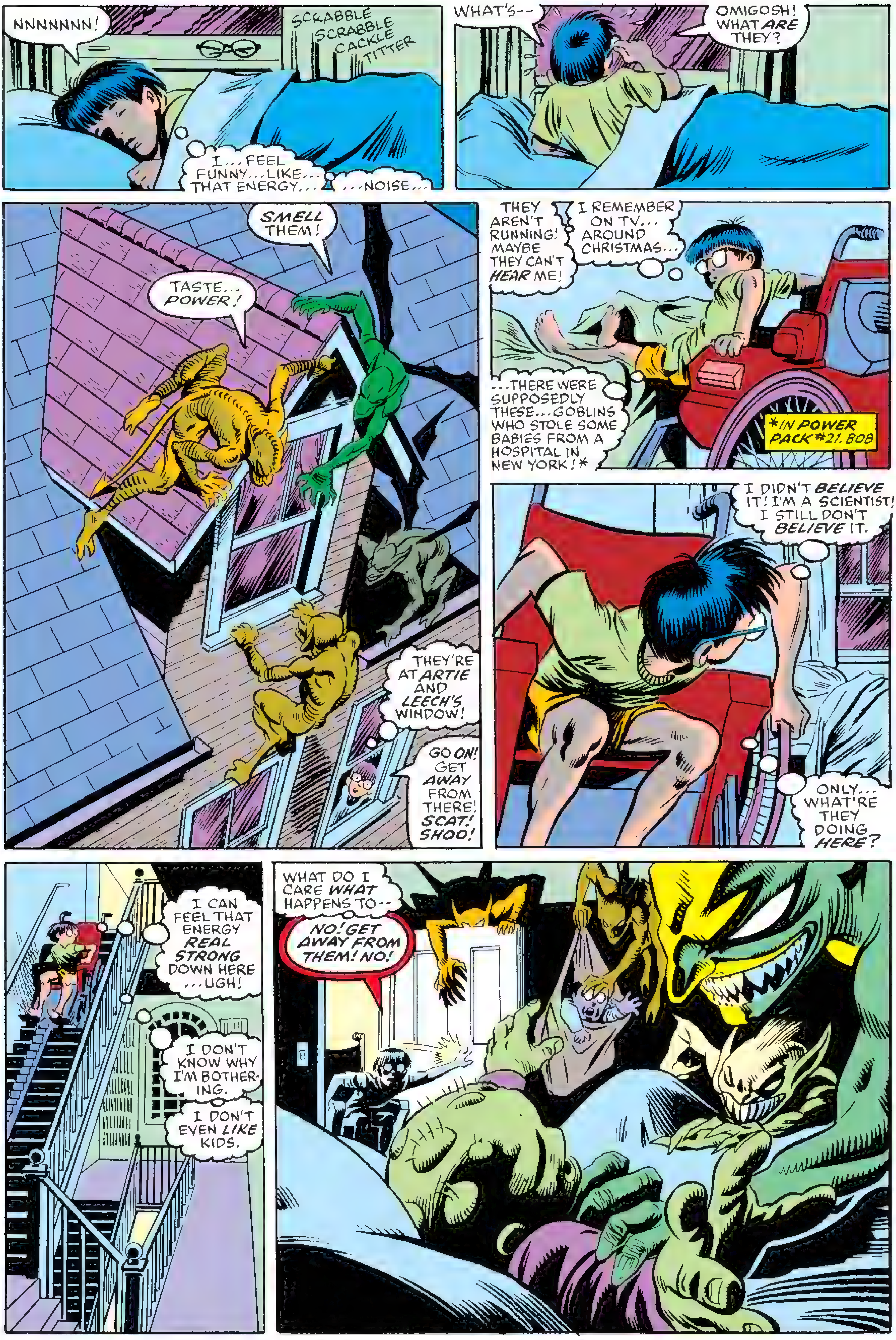

WHILE AT NEARBY ST. SIMONS...
ARTIE, HONEY, LEECH IS DAMPENING YOUR PICTURE POWER. IT'S ALL STATIC.
I CAN'T TELL WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
NOT SCRAMBLE!
ARTIE SAY...
...TALK PICTURES...
...WHY...
...NEED LETTERS...?
HA! THEY COULDN'T MAKE ME WALK... OR LEARN TO READ...
...AN' I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD LEARN TO READ, EITHER.
TAKESHI--!
SO WHAT IF WE'RE DYSLEXIC AN' APHASIC AN' STUFF. I CAN BUILD THINGS... LIKE MY SOUPED-UP-DOUBLE-WHEELIE RACER-CHAIR.
IT'S THE MOST-SPECIAL CHAIR IN THE WORLD.
AN' ARTIE CAN TALK WITH PICTURES. THAT'S COOLER THAN BEING ABLE TO TALK PLAIN ...OR READ.
TAKI WAS SO DISAPPOINTED WHEN HIS LATEST OPERATION FAILED. HE HAS SUCH FAITH IN TECHNOLOGY. IT'S TAKEN HIM WEEKS TO SNAP OUT OF IT.
THAT'S THE FIRST INTEREST THE ARROGANT LITTLE BEAST'S SHOWN IN ANY OF THE OTHER KIDS... EVER.
KID AS BRIGHT AS HE IS... I JUST WISH HE'D GET THAT MOUNTAIN-SIZED CHIP OFF HIS SHOULDER!
K-PING!
K-PLANG!
K-PLOOIE!
GET AWAY FROM ME YOU GREEN MENACE! IT'S YOUR FAULT! GET AWAY!
LOOK WHAT YOU DID! YOU SCREW UP EVERYTHING YOU GET AROUND! GET AWAY FROM ME! NOW!
=
?

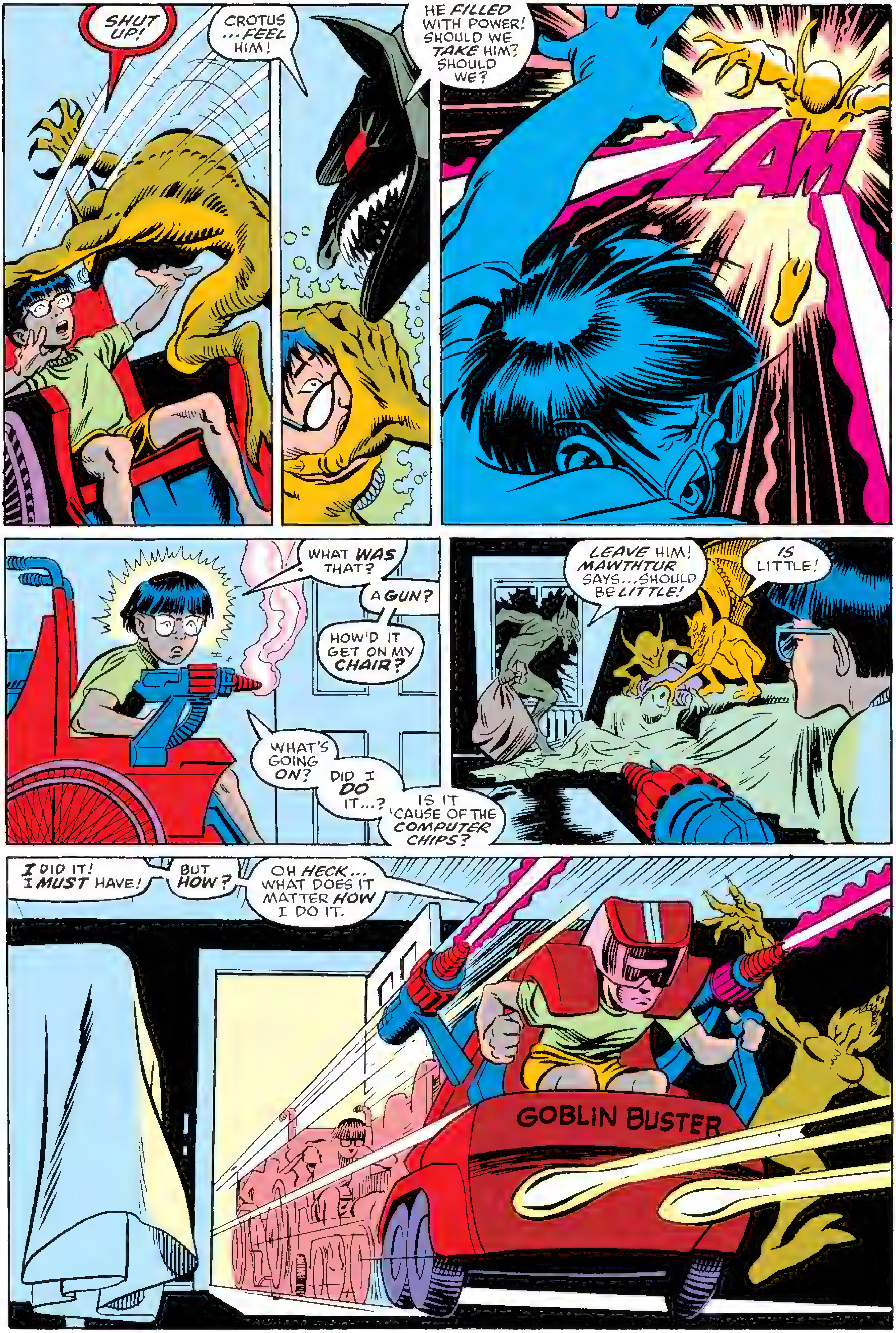

WHILE AT EXETER...
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE HERE, TABBY.
TABby!?
It is short For Tabitha.
HA! Just wait'll she calls you SALLY.
EXETER IS A VERY *BROAD-MINDED* SCHOOL. WE ACCEPT PEOPLE FROM *ALL* WALKS OF LIFE.
Just one li'l boom -- right down her back. That's all I ask...
SHHH.
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM. I EXPECT IT WILL BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE ...CONSIDERING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN *USED* TO.
I UNDERSTAND YOU LIVED ON A *BOAT...?*
IT WAS A *SHIP...* A *SPACE* SHIP.
YUCK!
AND *THIS* IS YOUR UNIFORM.
BARF CITY!
WE *WEAR* UNIFORMS SO THAT *NO ONE* NEED FEEL INFERIOR.
DINNER IS IN HALF-AN-HOUR.
AN *ICE SLIDE...* SUCH AN AMUSING WAY TO TRAVEL...? DOES REMARKABLE THINGS FOR YOUR HAIR, DOESN'T IT?
I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TWO TO... *TIDY UP.*
Just ONE li'l boom...
NO!
DON'T YOU *DARE!*
OOPS! 3...2... 1...
BOOM!
SKIDS, JUST *LOOK* WHAT YOU MADE ME DO!
THEY'RE IN *SHREDS!* THEY'RE... *RAGS!*
SUCH A TERRIBLE SHAME, MUFFY...
...WE'LL SIMPLY *HAVE* TO WEAR THE RAGS WE HAVE ON!

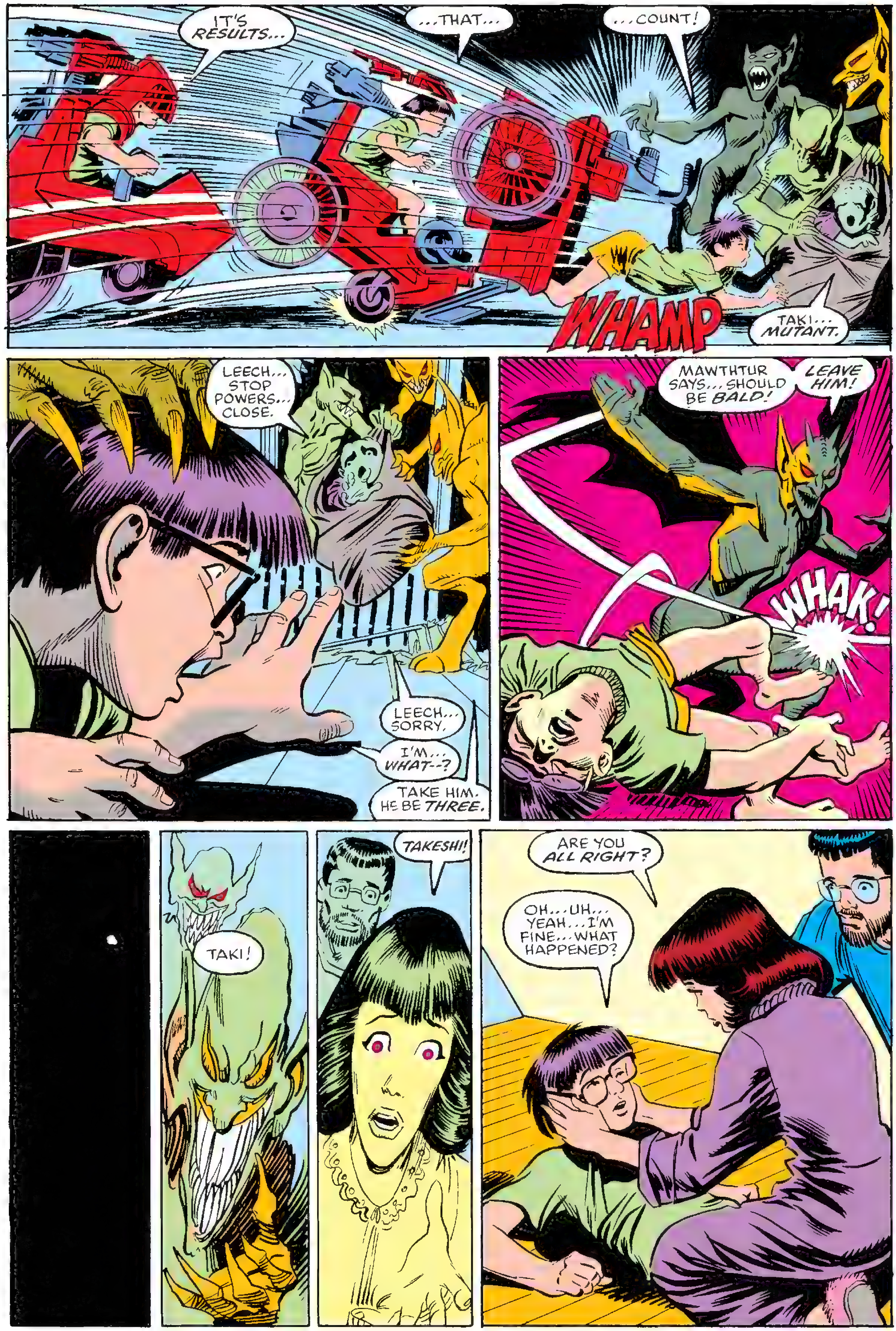

SEVEN DAYS LATER, THE DORM FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS AT ST. SIMONS' ACADEMY...
MY UNCLE SHIPPED ME OFF HERE BUT I DON'T CARE!
I'M A COMPUTER GENIUS INVENTOR...
I'M PRACTICALLY A COMPUTER MYSELF, YA KNOW, I'M SO FILLED UP WITH CHIPS AN' STUFF.
THE DOCTORS PUT THEM IN ME IN AN OPERATION.
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D FOCUS ENERGY FROM MY NERVES TO MY MUSCLES TO HELP ME WALK BUT...
...WELL, THEORY'S ONE THING BUT IT'S RESULTS THAT COUNT AND THEIR RESULTS SUCKED PICKLED EGGS!
AWRIGHT... I GOT THE WIRES CLAMPED. GIMME THE PLIERS!
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE YOU OR ANYTHING... I'M JUST LETTIN' YOU HAND ME STUFF.
BUT NOT LEECH...
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
AW... NOOO!
SPUT SPUTTER FIZZLE SPLOP
I KNEW IT!
MY INVENTIONS DON'T WORK WHEN YOU GET NEAR... AN' I FEEL FUNNY, TOO!
YOU MAKE ME FEEL FUNNY.
GO ON! GET OUTTA HERE! I DON'T WANT YOU ANYWHERE AROUND!
ゴジラ
ARTIE!
THIS INVENTION'S GONNA MEASURE THE ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS IN THE AIR AROUND US.
AWRIGHT, ARTIE, I NEED THE SCREWDRIVER.
BLATT!

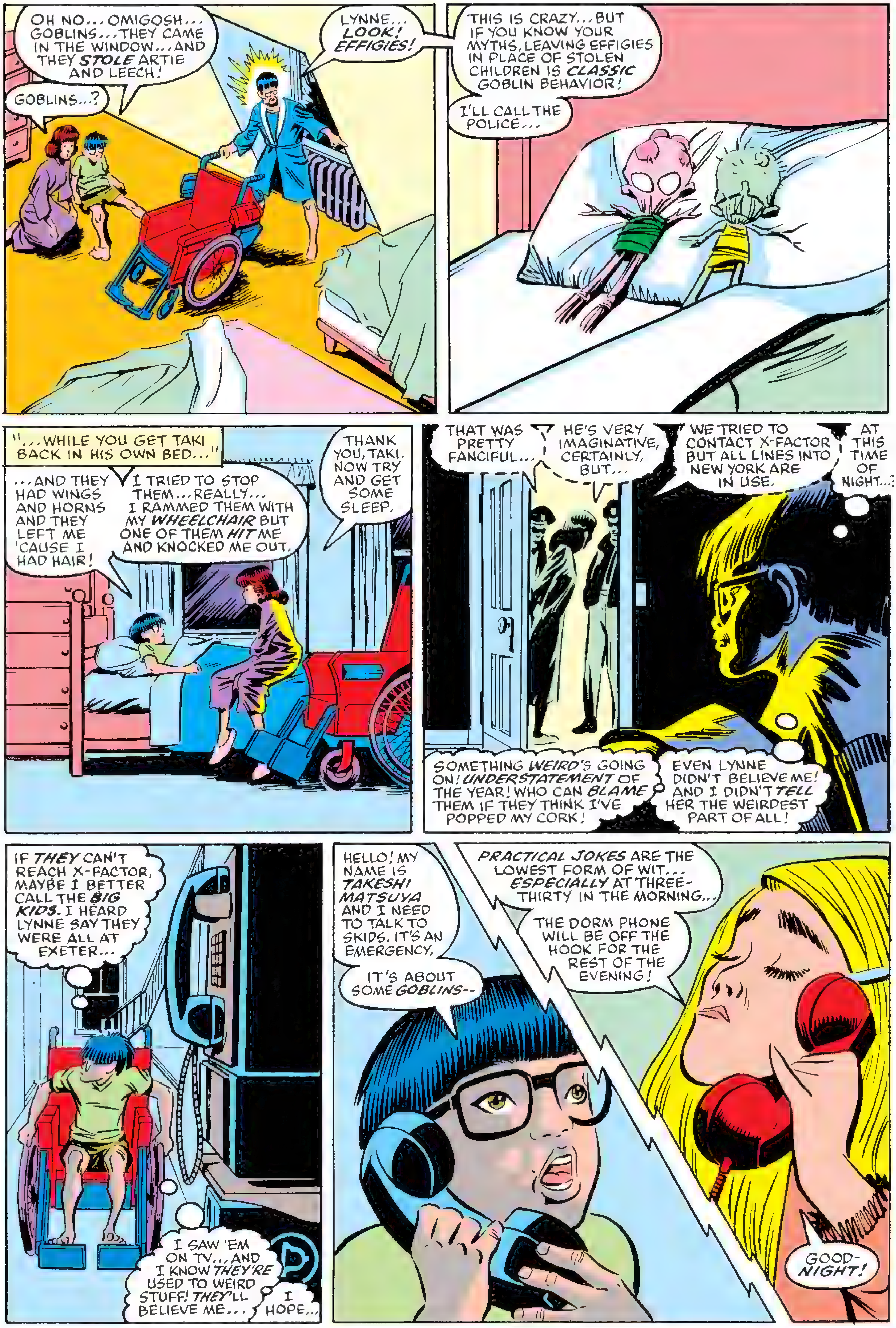

I DON'T CARE! I DON'T *NEED* YOU!
I DON'T NEED *ANYBODY!*
LEECH... DO.
HUMPH! I... I FEEL REAL... *FUNNY!*
IT'S GOTTA BE *YOU,* FROG-FACE. YOU BETTER KEEP *AWAY* FROM ME, YOU HEAR?
...little... ...*POWER*...
...bald...
OH, MAN, *LOOK* AT IT! IT'S MY BEST INVENTION *EVER!*
BZAT!
THERE'S SOME KINDA REALLY *WEIRD* ENERGY AROUND HERE, AWRIGHT!
IT'S--
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING *ON?* IT SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE *THAT!*
DON'T *TOUCH* ME! GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU GREEN-FACED GEEK! SEE WHAT YOU MADE IT DO--?
OHHH! *WAIT! COME BACK!*
I'M SORRY... I ...FEEL BETTER *NOW* WHEN YOU'RE AROUND. REALLY!
COME *BACK* ...PLEASE.

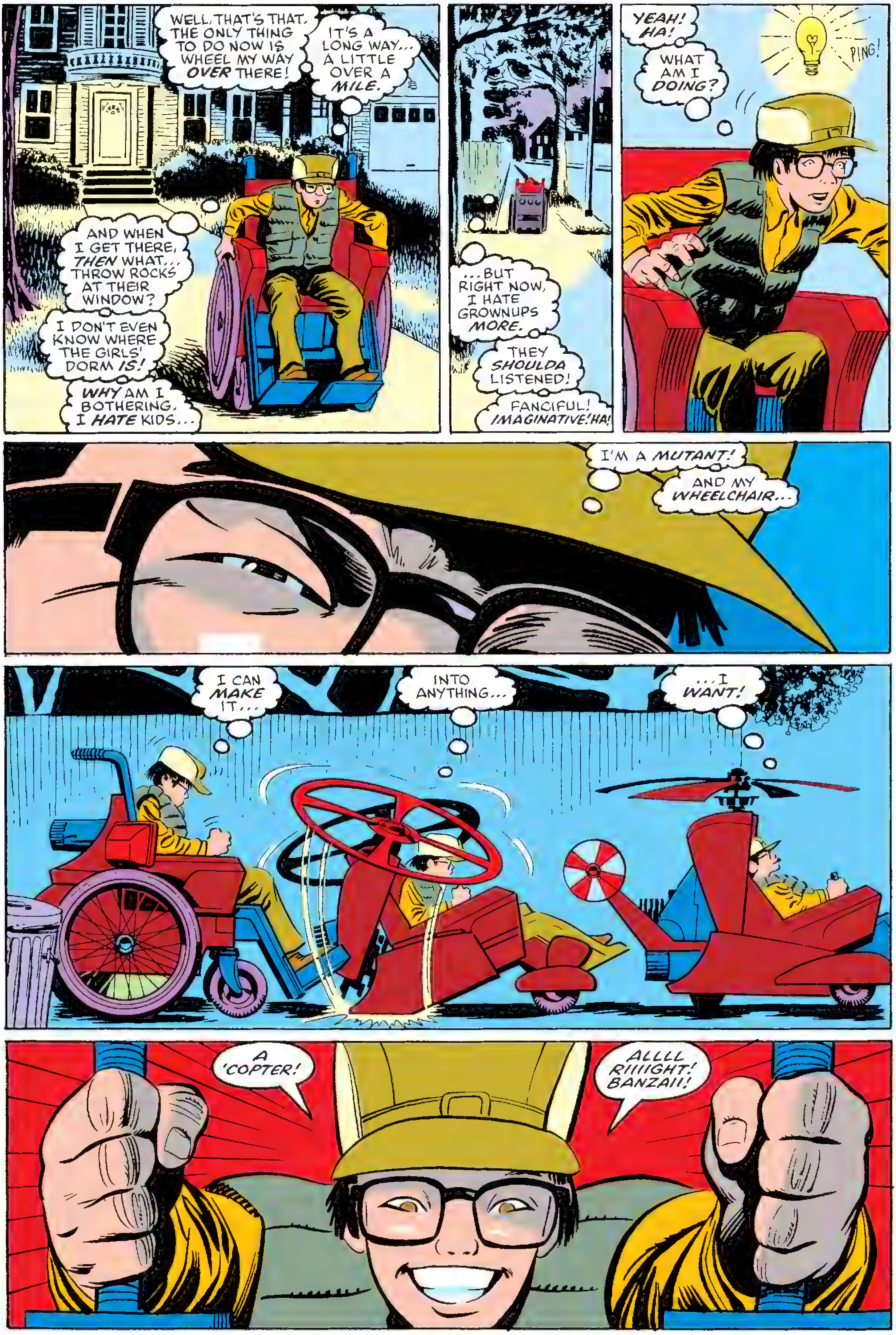

WHEN YOU BACK OFF... THAT *ENERGY*... I CAN STILL *FEEL* IT...!
I GUESS... MAYBE YOU CAN STAY *WITH* ME, AFTER ALL!
THAT NIGHT...
SKRATCH SKRITCH CACKLE SKRITCH
SCRATCH SCRABBLE SKRATCH
Z

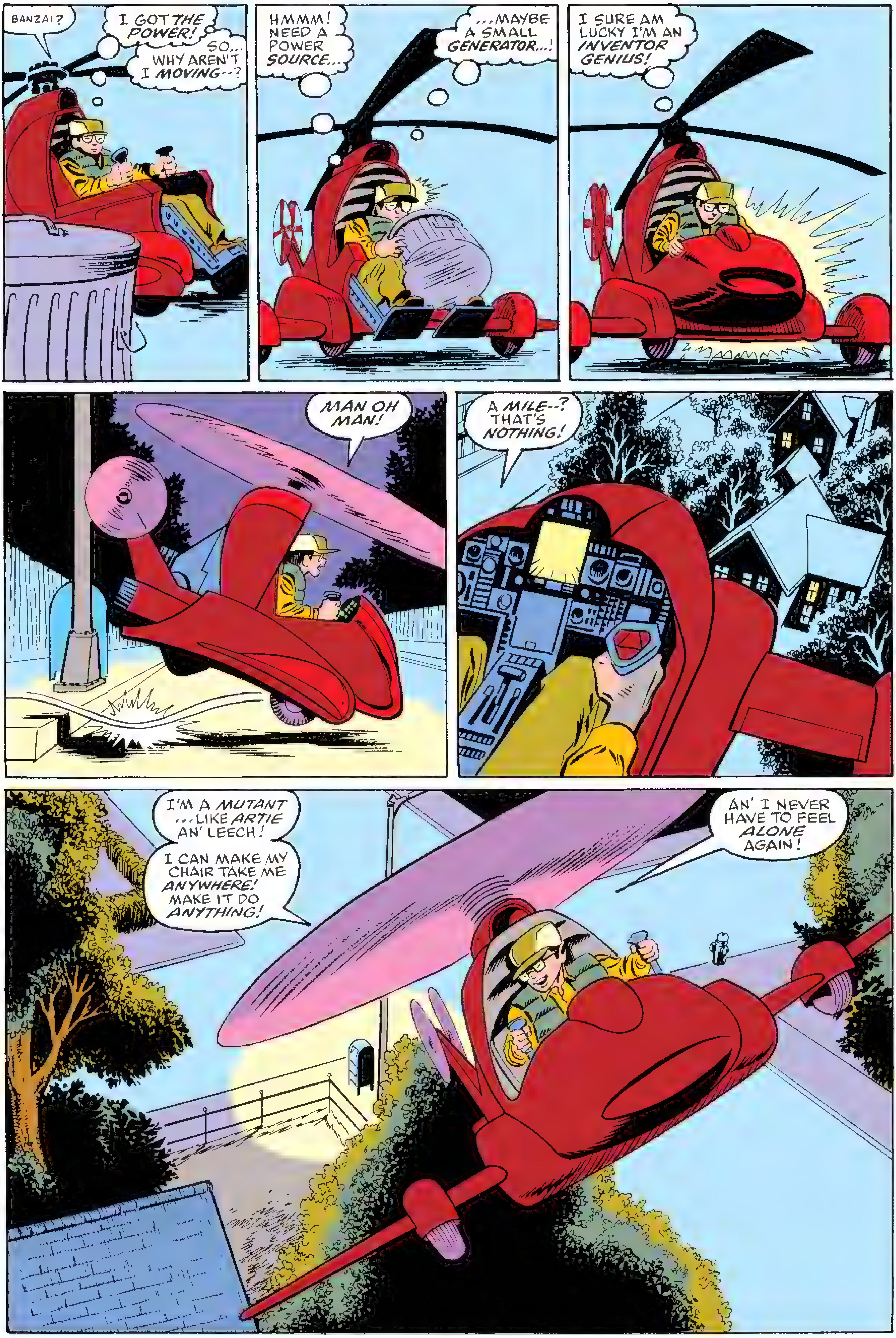

NNNNNNN!
SCRABBLE SCRABBLE CACKLE TITTER
I... FEEL FUNNY... LIKE... THAT ENERGY...
...NOISE...
WHAT'S--
OMIGOSH! WHAT ARE THEY?
SMELL THEM!
TASTE... POWER!
THEY'RE AT ARTIE AND LEECH'S WINDOW!
GO ON! GET AWAY FROM THERE! SCAT! SHOO!
THEY AREN'T RUNNING! MAYBE THEY CAN'T HEAR ME!
I REMEMBER ON TV... AROUND CHRISTMAS...
...THERE WERE SUPPOSEDLY THESE... GOBLINS WHO STOLE SOME BABIES FROM A HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK!*
*IN POWER PACK #21. BOB
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT! I'M A SCIENTIST! I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.
ONLY... WHAT'RE THEY DOING HERE?
I CAN FEEL THAT ENERGY REAL STRONG DOWN HERE ...UGH!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M BOTHERING.
I DON'T EVEN LIKE KIDS.
WHAT DO I CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO--
NO! GET AWAY FROM THEM! NO!

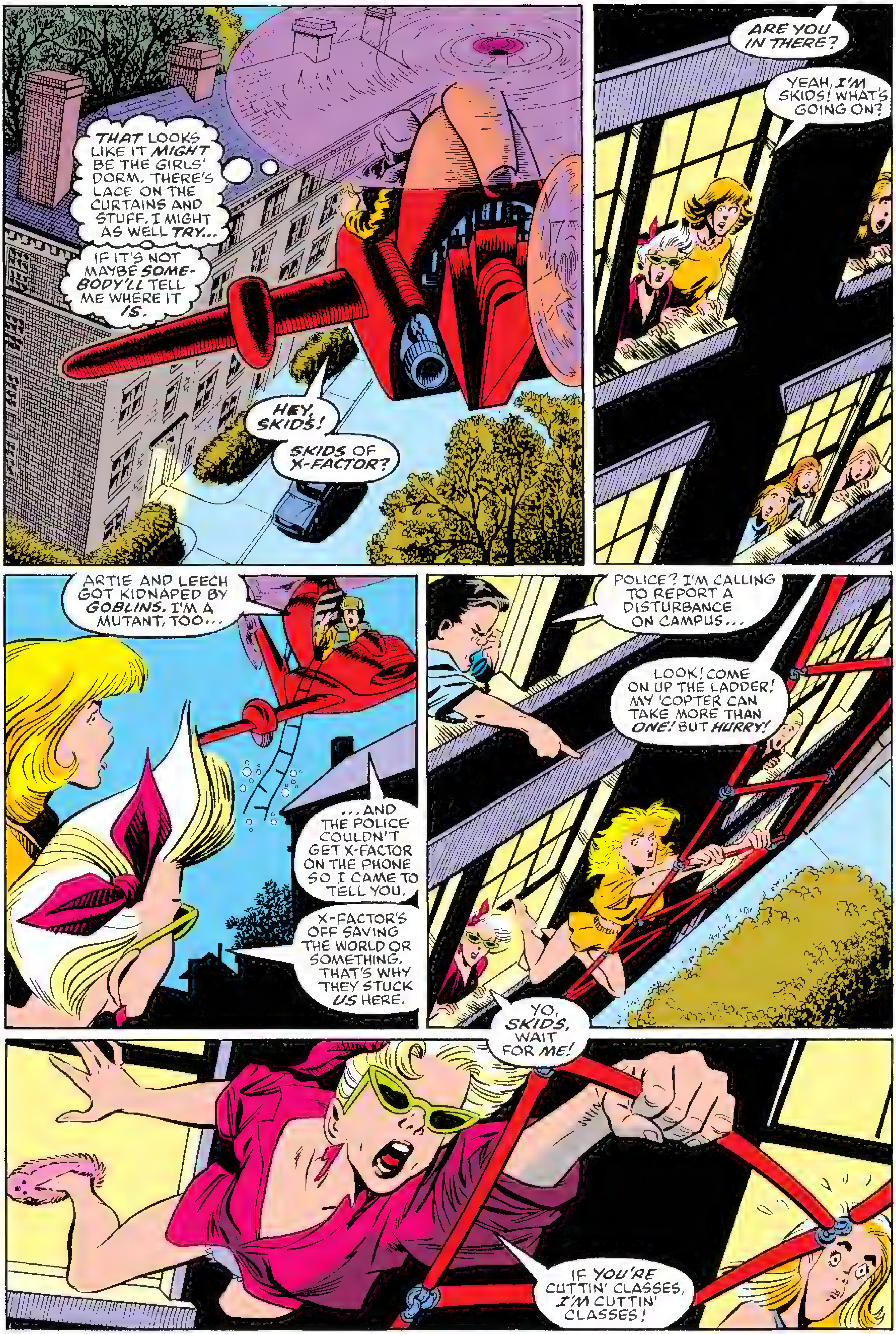

SHUT UP!
CROTUS ...FEEL HIM!
HE FILLED WITH POWER! SHOULD WE TAKE HIM? SHOULD WE?
ZAM
WHAT WAS THAT?
A GUN?
HOW'D IT GET ON MY CHAIR?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID I DO IT...?
IS IT 'CAUSE OF THE COMPUTER CHIPS?
LEAVE HIM! MAWTHTUR SAYS...SHOULD BE LITTLE!
IS LITTLE!
I DID IT! I MUST HAVE!
BUT HOW?
OH HECK... WHAT DOES IT MATTER HOW I DO IT.
GOBLIN BUSTER

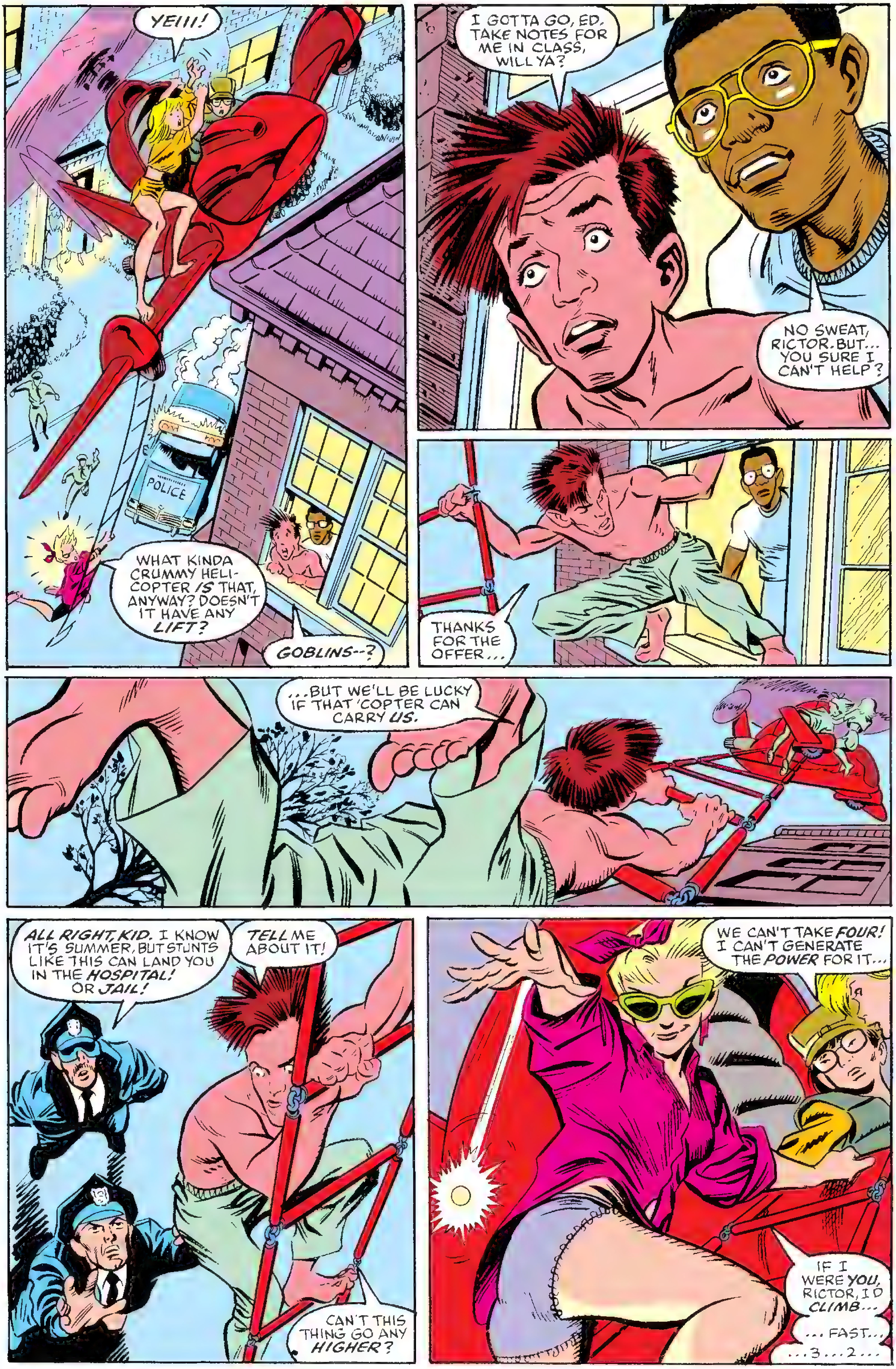

IT'S RESULTS...
...THAT...
...COUNT!
WHAMP
TAKI... MUTANT.
LEECH... STOP POWERS... CLOSE.
LEECH... SORRY.
I'M... WHAT--?
TAKE HIM. HE BE THREE.
MAWTHTUR SAYS... SHOULD BE BALD!
LEAVE HIM!
WHAK!
TAKI!
TAKESHI!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH... UH... YEAH... I'M FINE... WHAT HAPPENED?

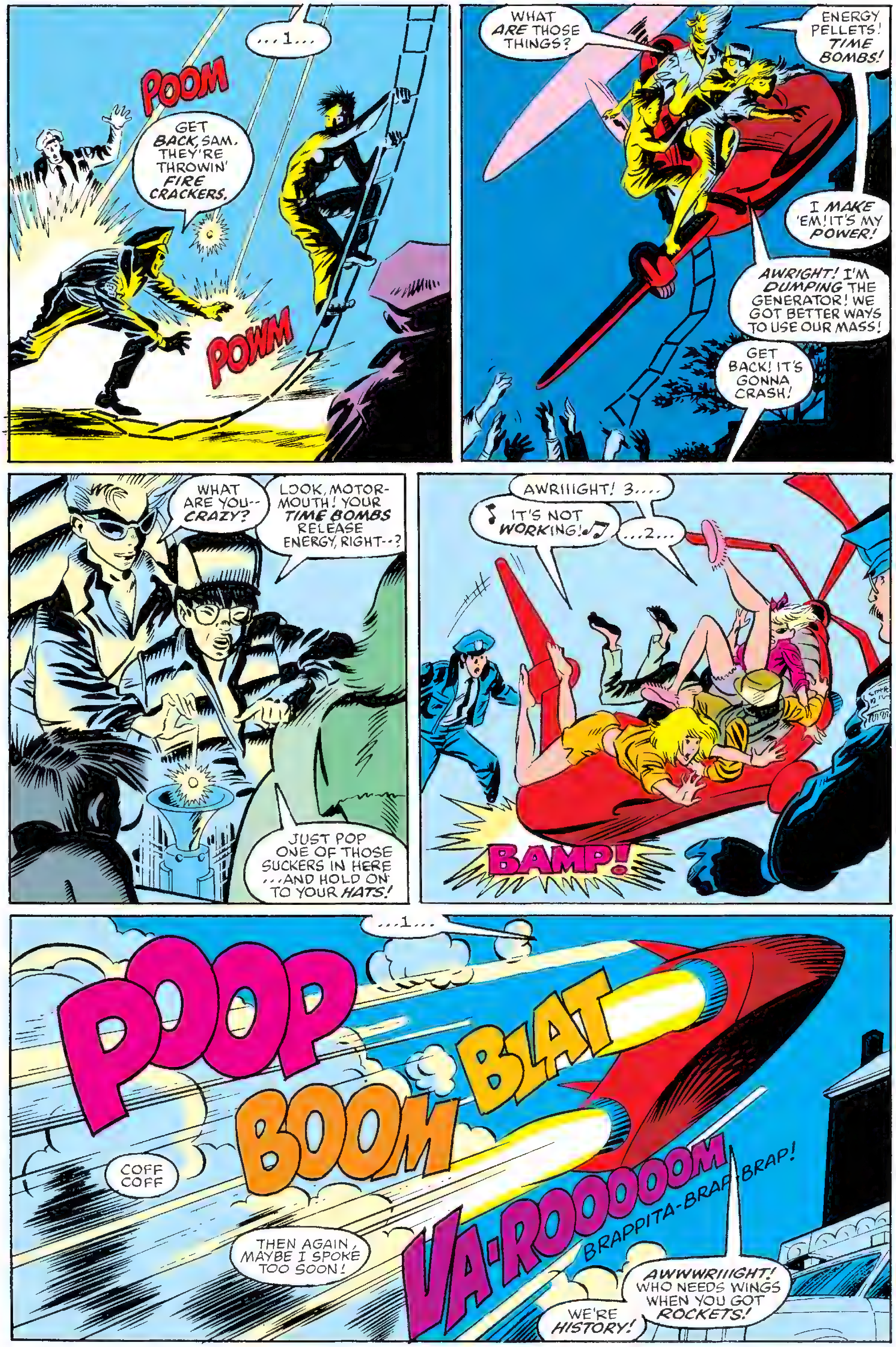

OH NO...OMIGOSH... GOBLINS...THEY CAME IN THE WINDOW...AND THEY *STOLE* ARTIE AND LEECH!
GOBLINS...?
LYNNE... *LOOK! EFFIGIES!*
THIS IS CRAZY...BUT IF YOU KNOW YOUR MYTHS, LEAVING EFFIGIES IN PLACE OF STOLEN CHILDREN IS *CLASSIC* GOBLIN BEHAVIOR!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE...
"...WHILE YOU GET TAKI BACK IN HIS OWN BED..."
...AND THEY HAD WINGS AND HORNS AND THEY LEFT ME 'CAUSE I HAD HAIR!
I TRIED TO STOP THEM...REALLY... I RAMMED THEM WITH MY *WHEELCHAIR* BUT ONE OF THEM *HIT* ME AND KNOCKED ME OUT.
THANK YOU, TAKI. NOW TRY AND GET SOME SLEEP.
THAT WAS PRETTY FANCIFUL...
HE'S VERY IMAGINATIVE, CERTAINLY, BUT...
WE TRIED TO CONTACT X-FACTOR BUT ALL LINES INTO NEW YORK ARE IN USE.
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...?
SOMETHING *WEIRD'S* GOING ON! *UNDERSTATEMENT* OF THE YEAR! WHO CAN *BLAME* THEM IF THEY THINK I'VE POPPED MY CORK!
EVEN LYNNE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME! AND I DIDN'T *TELL* HER THE WEIRDEST PART OF ALL!
IF *THEY* CAN'T REACH X-FACTOR, MAYBE I BETTER CALL THE *BIG KIDS.* I HEARD LYNNE SAY THEY WERE ALL AT EXETER...
I SAW 'EM ON TV...AND I KNOW *THEY'RE* USED TO WEIRD STUFF! *THEY'LL* BELIEVE ME...
I HOPE...
HELLO! MY NAME IS *TAKESHI MATSUYA* AND I NEED TO TALK TO SKIDS. IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
IT'S ABOUT SOME *GOBLINS*--
PRACTICAL JOKES ARE THE LOWEST FORM OF WIT... *ESPECIALLY* AT THREE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING...
THE DORM PHONE WILL BE OFF THE HOOK FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING!
GOOD-*NIGHT!*

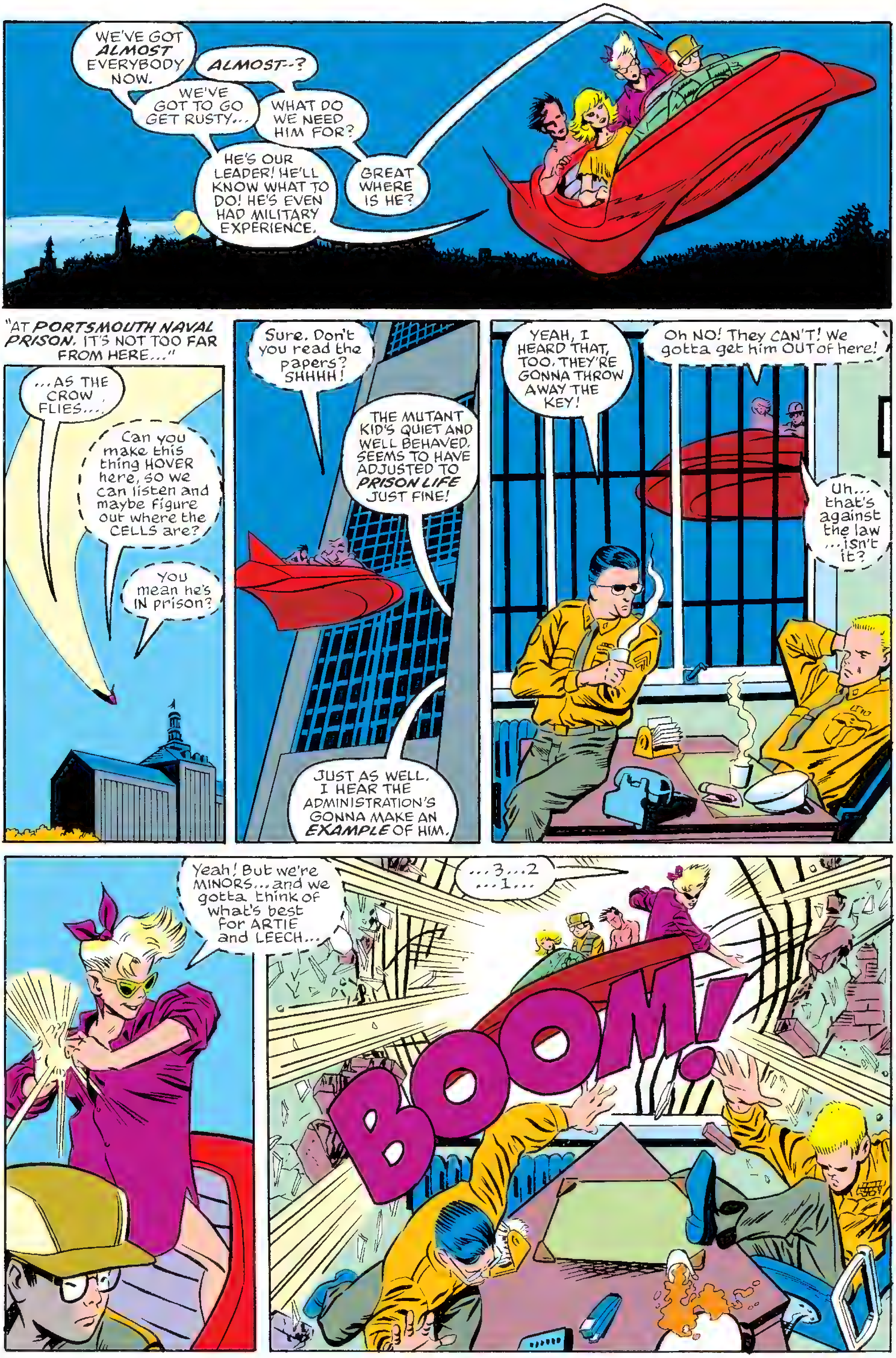

WELL, THAT'S THAT. THE ONLY THING TO DO NOW IS WHEEL MY WAY *OVER* THERE!
IT'S A LONG WAY... A LITTLE OVER A *MILE.*
AND WHEN I GET THERE, *THEN* WHAT... THROW ROCKS AT THEIR WINDOW?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE GIRLS' DORM *IS!*
WHY AM I BOTHERING. I *HATE* KIDS...
...BUT RIGHT NOW, I HATE GROWNUPS *MORE.*
THEY *SHOULDA* LISTENED!
FANCIFUL! *IMAGINATIVE!* HA!
YEAH! HA!
WHAT AM I *DOING?*
PING!
I'M A *MUTANT!*
AND MY *WHEELCHAIR...*
I CAN *MAKE* IT...
INTO ANYTHING...
...I *WANT!*
A 'COPTER!
ALLLL RIIIIGHT! BANZAII!

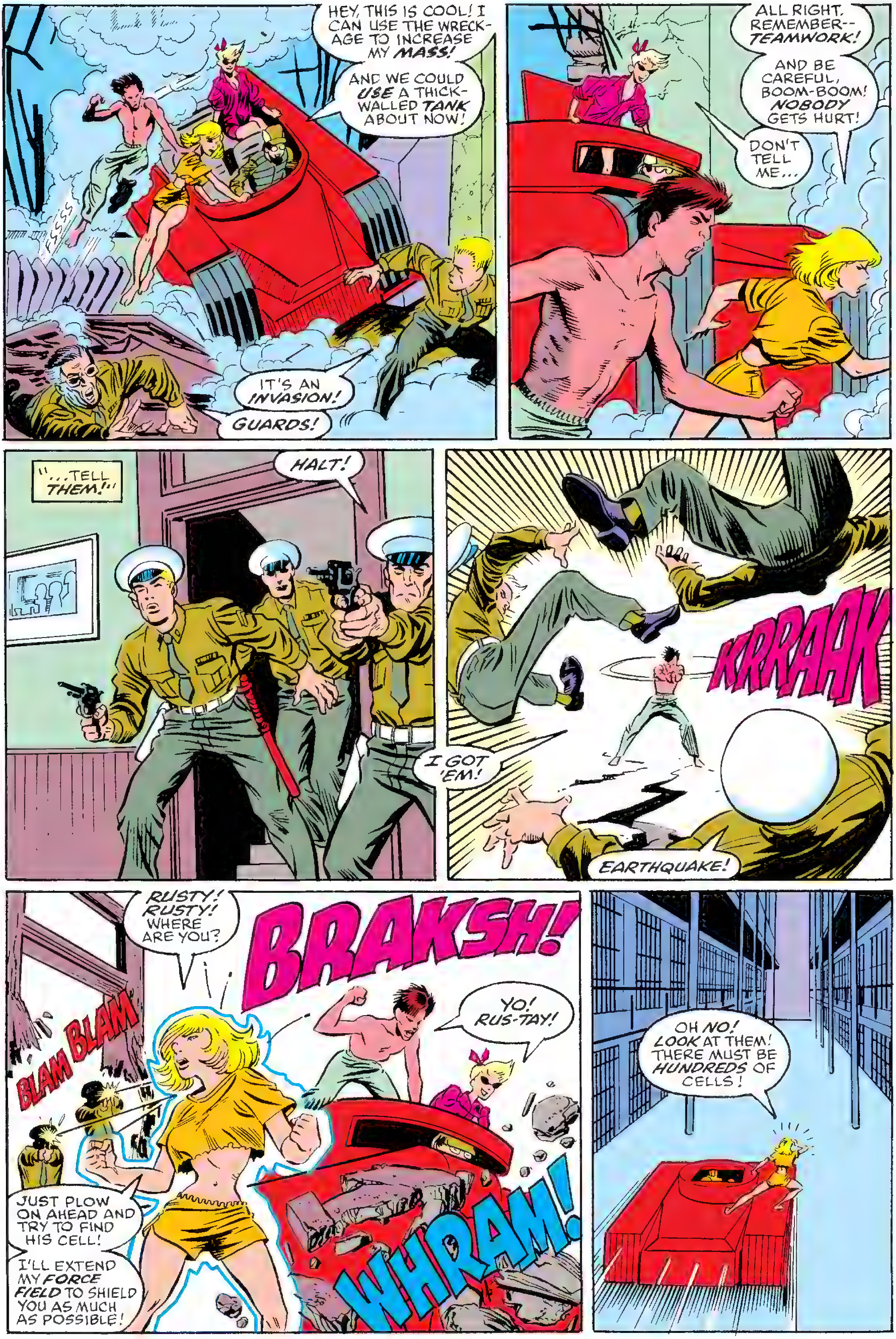

BANZAI?
I GOT *THE POWER!*
SO... WHY AREN'T I *MOVING*--?
HMMM! NEED A POWER *SOURCE*...
...MAYBE A SMALL *GENERATOR*...!
I SURE AM LUCKY I'M AN *INVENTOR GENIUS!*
MAN OH MAN!
A *MILE*--? THAT'S *NOTHING!*
I'M A *MUTANT* ...LIKE *ARTIE* AN' LEECH!
I CAN MAKE MY CHAIR TAKE ME *ANYWHERE!* MAKE IT DO *ANYTHING!*
AN' I NEVER HAVE TO FEEL *ALONE* AGAIN!

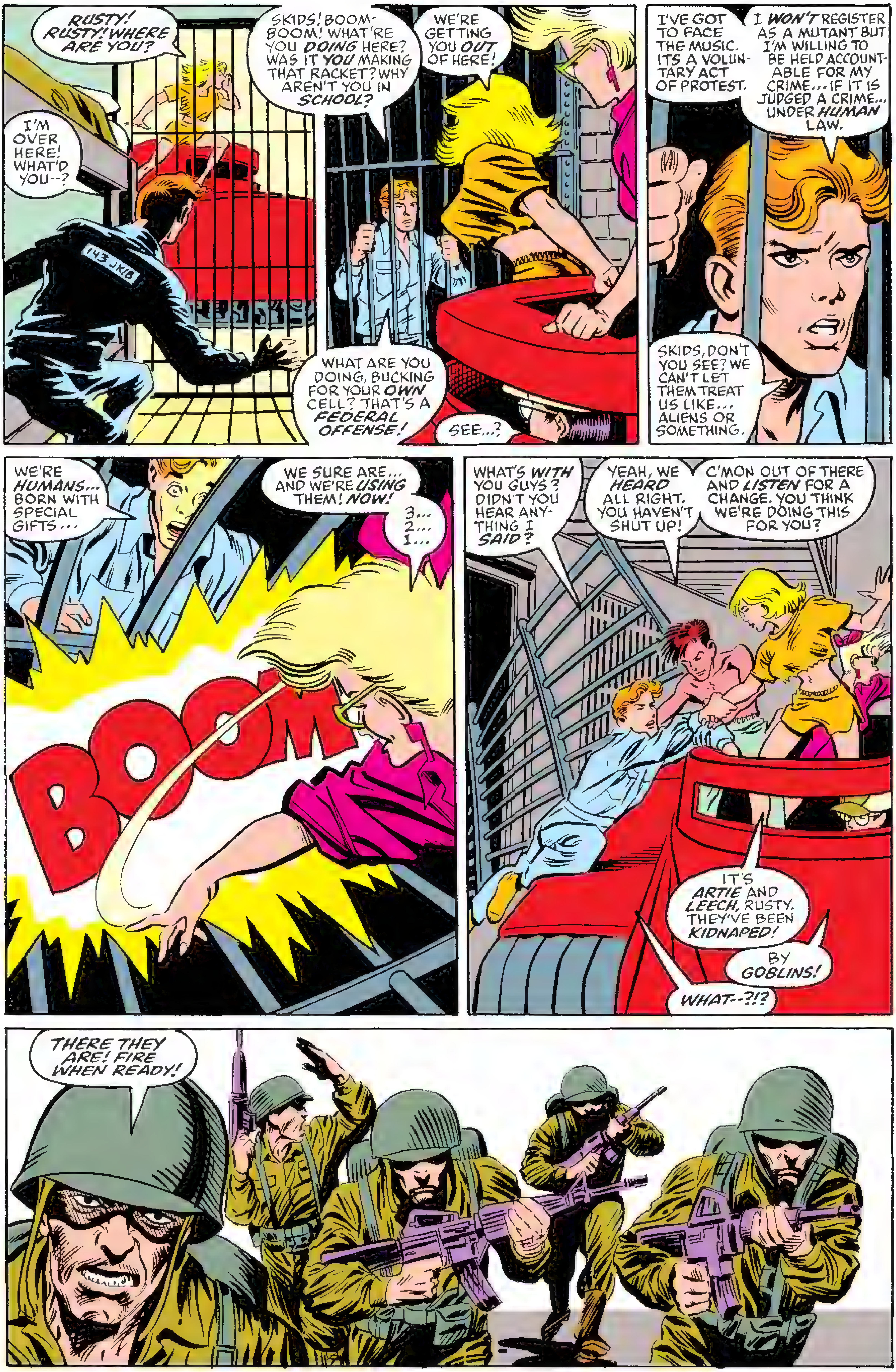

THAT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE THE GIRLS' DORM. THERE'S LACE ON THE CURTAINS AND STUFF. I MIGHT AS WELL TRY...
IF IT'S NOT MAYBE SOMEBODY'LL TELL ME WHERE IT IS.
HEY, SKIDS!
SKIDS OF X-FACTOR?
ARE YOU IN THERE?
YEAH, I'M SKIDS! WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARTIE AND LEECH GOT KIDNAPED BY GOBLINS. I'M A MUTANT, TOO...
...AND THE POLICE COULDN'T GET X-FACTOR ON THE PHONE SO I CAME TO TELL YOU.
X-FACTOR'S OFF SAVING THE WORLD OR SOMETHING. THAT'S WHY THEY STUCK US HERE.
POLICE? I'M CALLING TO REPORT A DISTURBANCE ON CAMPUS...
LOOK! COME ON UP THE LADDER! MY 'COPTER CAN TAKE MORE THAN ONE! BUT HURRY!
YO, SKIDS, WAIT FOR ME!
IF YOU'RE CUTTIN' CLASSES, I'M CUTTIN' CLASSES!

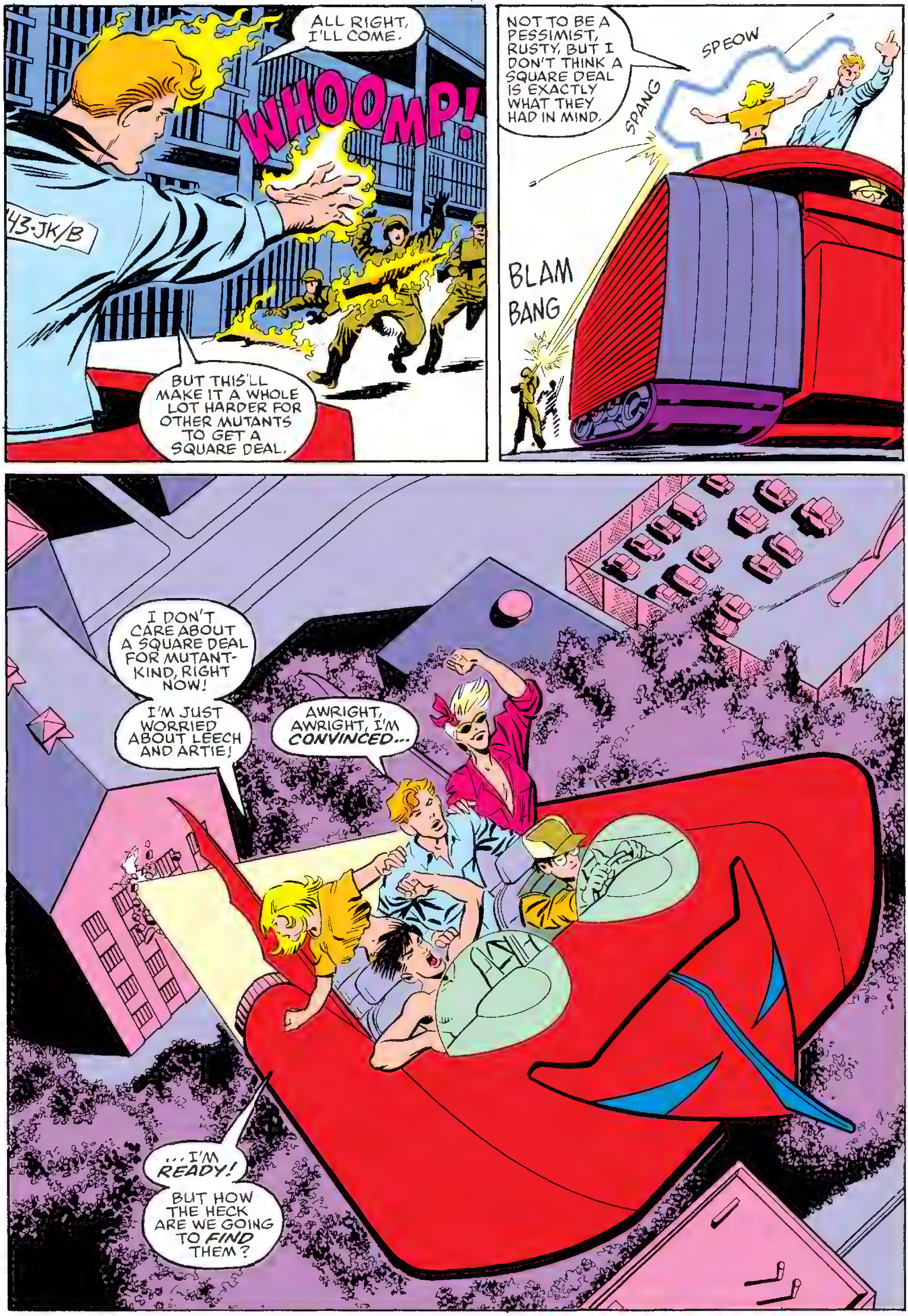

YEIII!
POLICE
WHAT KINDA CRUMMY HELICOPTER *IS* THAT, ANYWAY? DOESN'T IT HAVE ANY *LIFT?*
GOBLINS--?
I GOTTA GO, ED. TAKE NOTES FOR ME IN CLASS, WILL YA?
NO SWEAT, RICTOR. BUT... YOU SURE I CAN'T HELP?
THANKS FOR THE OFFER...
...BUT WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THAT 'COPTER CAN CARRY *US.*
ALL RIGHT, KID. I KNOW IT'S SUMMER, BUT STUNTS LIKE THIS CAN LAND YOU IN THE *HOSPITAL!* OR *JAIL!*
TELL ME ABOUT IT!
CAN'T THIS THING GO ANY *HIGHER?*
WE CAN'T TAKE *FOUR!* I CAN'T GENERATE THE *POWER* FOR IT...
IF I WERE *YOU,* RICTOR, I'D *CLIMB...*
...FAST...
...3...2...


...1...
POOM
GET BACK, SAM. THEY'RE THROWIN' FIRE CRACKERS.
POWM
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?
ENERGY PELLETS! TIME BOMBS!
I MAKE 'EM! IT'S MY POWER!
AWRIGHT! I'M DUMPING THE GENERATOR! WE GOT BETTER WAYS TO USE OUR MASS!
GET BACK! IT'S GONNA CRASH!
WHAT ARE YOU-- CRAZY?
LOOK, MOTOR-MOUTH! YOUR TIME BOMBS RELEASE ENERGY, RIGHT--?
JUST POP ONE OF THOSE SUCKERS IN HERE ...AND HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS!
AWRIIIGHT! 3....
♪ IT'S NOT WORKING! ♪♫
...2...
BAMP!
...1...
POOP
BOOM
BLAT
VA-ROOOOOOM
BRAPPITA-BRAP-BRAP!
COFF COFF
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I SPOKE TOO SOON!
AWWWRIIGHT! WHO NEEDS WINGS WHEN YOU GOT ROCKETS!
WE'RE HISTORY!


WE'VE GOT *ALMOST* EVERYBODY NOW.
ALMOST--?
WE'VE GOT TO GO GET RUSTY...
WHAT DO WE NEED HIM FOR?
HE'S OUR LEADER! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO! HE'S EVEN HAD MILITARY EXPERIENCE.
GREAT WHERE IS HE?
"AT *PORTSMOUTH NAVAL PRISON*. IT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE..."
...AS THE CROW FLIES....
Can you make this thing HOVER here, so we can listen and maybe figure out where the CELLS are?
You mean he's IN prison?
Sure. Don't you read the papers? SHHHH!
THE MUTANT KID'S QUIET AND WELL BEHAVED. SEEMS TO HAVE ADJUSTED TO *PRISON LIFE* JUST FINE!
JUST AS WELL. I HEAR THE ADMINISTRATION'S GONNA MAKE AN *EXAMPLE* OF HIM.
YEAH, I HEARD THAT, TOO. THEY'RE GONNA THROW AWAY THE KEY!
Oh NO! They CAN'T! We gotta get him OUT of here!
Uh... that's against the law ...isn't it?
Yeah! But we're MINORS... and we gotta think of what's best for ARTIE and LEECH...
...3...2 ...1...
BOOM!


HEY, THIS IS COOL! I CAN USE THE WRECKAGE TO INCREASE MY *MASS!*
AND WE COULD *USE* A THICK-WALLED *TANK* ABOUT NOW!
FSSSS
IT'S AN *INVASION!*
GUARDS!
ALL RIGHT. REMEMBER-- *TEAMWORK!*
AND BE CAREFUL, BOOM-BOOM! *NOBODY* GETS HURT!
DON'T TELL ME...
"...TELL *THEM!*"
HALT!
I GOT 'EM!
KRRAAK
EARTHQUAKE!
RUSTY! RUSTY! WHERE ARE YOU?
BRAKSH!
BLAM BLAM
YO! *RUS-TAY!*
JUST PLOW ON AHEAD AND TRY TO FIND HIS CELL!
I'LL EXTEND MY *FORCE FIELD* TO SHIELD YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
WHRAM!
OH *NO!* *LOOK* AT THEM! THERE MUST BE *HUNDREDS* OF CELLS!


RUSTY! RUSTY! WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M OVER HERE! WHAT'D YOU--?
143 JK18
SKIDS! BOOM-BOOM! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? WAS IT YOU MAKING THAT RACKET? WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?
WE'RE GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BUCKING FOR YOUR OWN CELL? THAT'S A FEDERAL OFFENSE!
SEE...?
I'VE GOT TO FACE THE MUSIC. ITS A VOLUNTARY ACT OF PROTEST.
I WON'T REGISTER AS A MUTANT BUT I'M WILLING TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY CRIME... IF IT IS JUDGED A CRIME... UNDER HUMAN LAW.
SKIDS, DON'T YOU SEE? WE CAN'T LET THEM TREAT US LIKE... ALIENS OR SOMETHING.
WE'RE HUMANS... BORN WITH SPECIAL GIFTS...
WE SURE ARE... AND WE'RE USING THEM! NOW!
3... 2... 1...
BOOM
WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS? DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANYTHING I SAID?
YEAH, WE HEARD ALL RIGHT. YOU HAVEN'T SHUT UP!
C'MON OUT OF THERE AND LISTEN FOR A CHANGE. YOU THINK WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU?
IT'S ARTIE AND LEECH, RUSTY. THEY'VE BEEN KIDNAPED!
BY GOBLINS!
WHAT--?!?
THERE THEY ARE! FIRE WHEN READY!


ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME.
WHOOMP!
43-JK/B
BUT THIS'LL MAKE IT A WHOLE LOT HARDER FOR OTHER MUTANTS TO GET A SQUARE DEAL.
NOT TO BE A PESSIMIST, RUSTY, BUT I DON'T THINK A SQUARE DEAL IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND.
SPEOW
SPANG
BLAM
BANG
I DON'T CARE ABOUT A SQUARE DEAL FOR MUTANT-KIND, RIGHT NOW!
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT LEECH AND ARTIE!
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT, I'M CONVINCED...
...I'M READY!
BUT HOW THE HECK ARE WE GOING TO FIND THEM?

*NEXT ISSUE: THE **X-FACTOR KIDS** GET **NEW COSTUMES** ...AND A **NEW NAME**! AS **NEW YORK** GOES CRAZY AND **N'ASTIRH** GAINS A...TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IN...* **-SPEED DEMON!** ***INFERNO** IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!*

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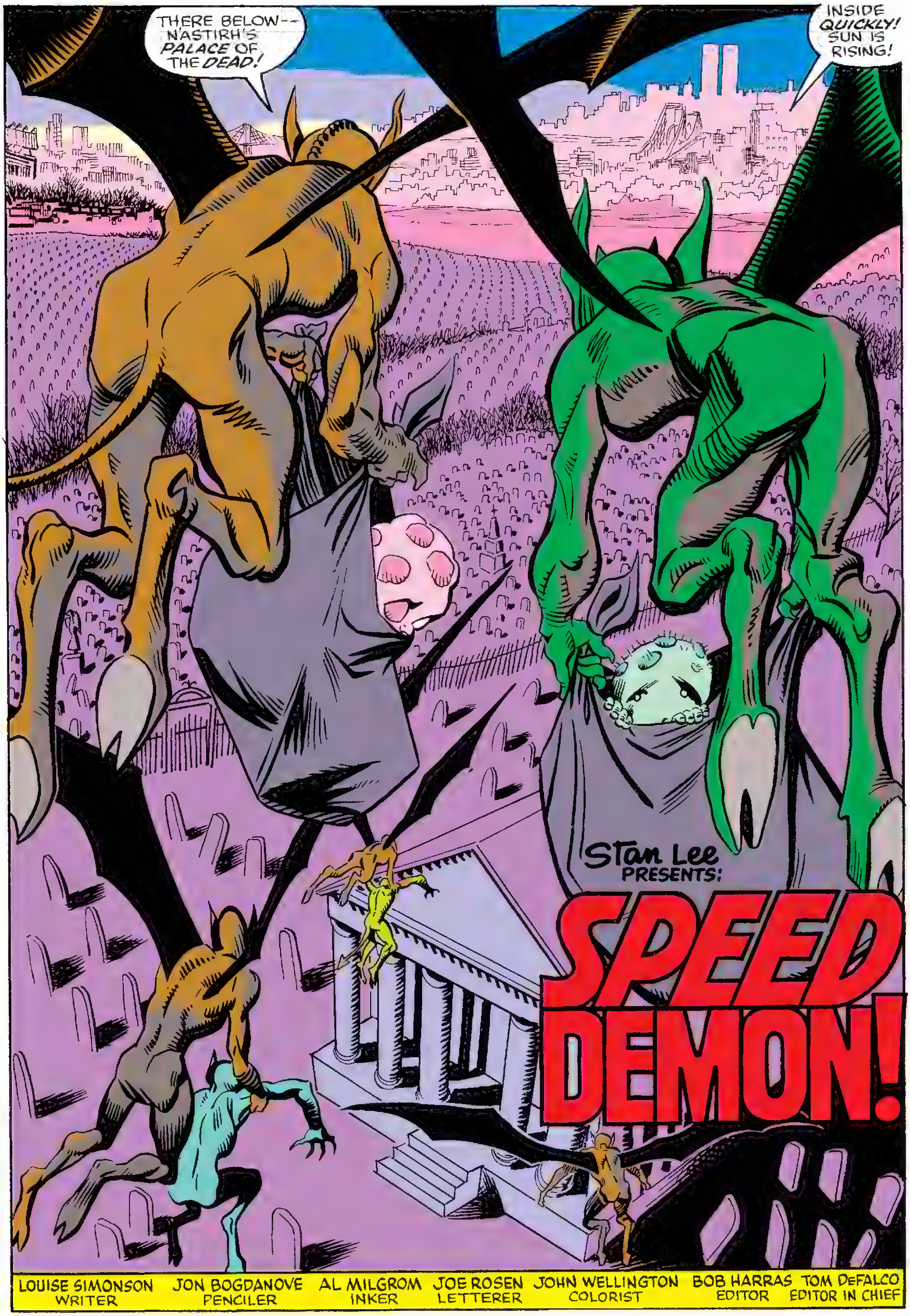
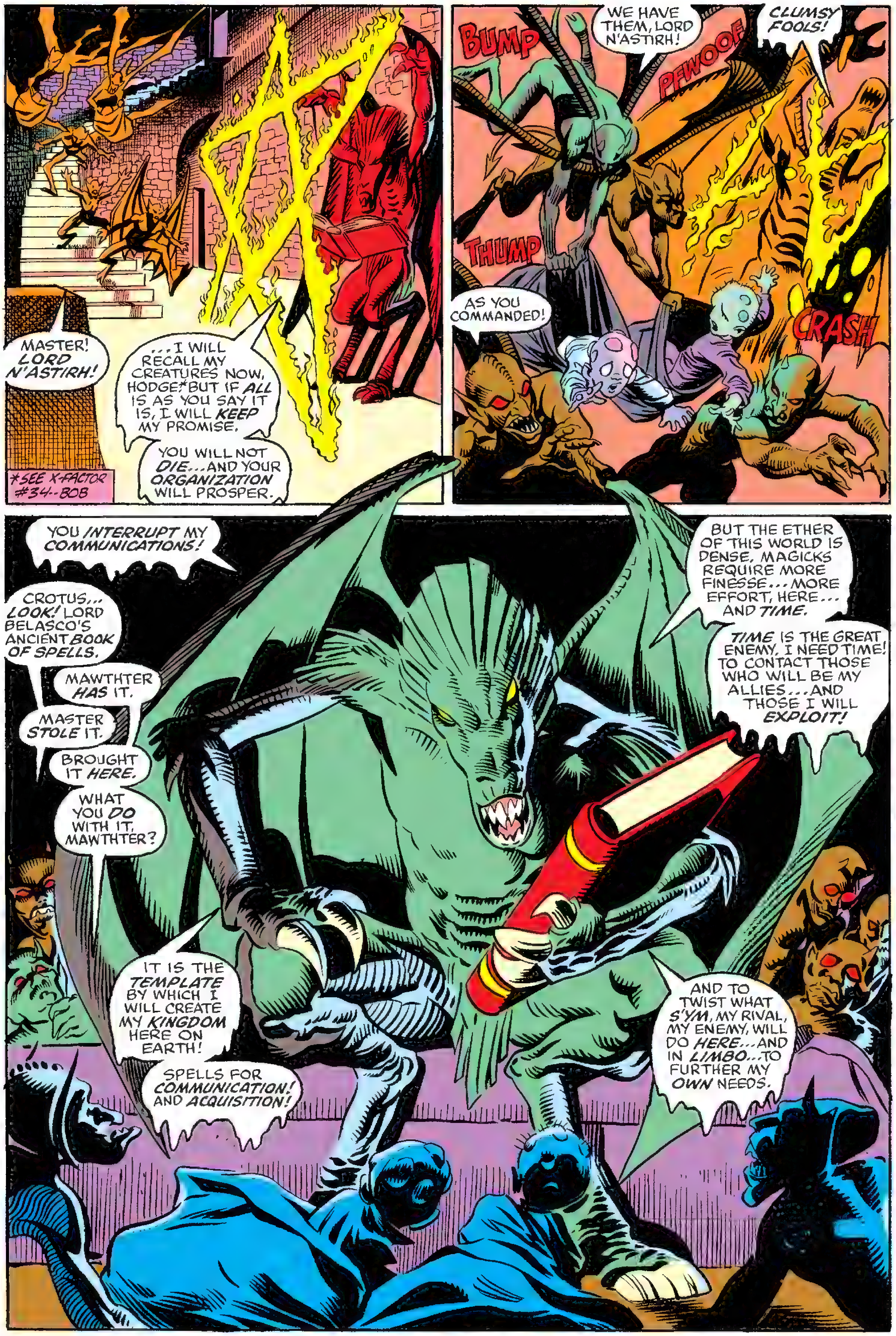
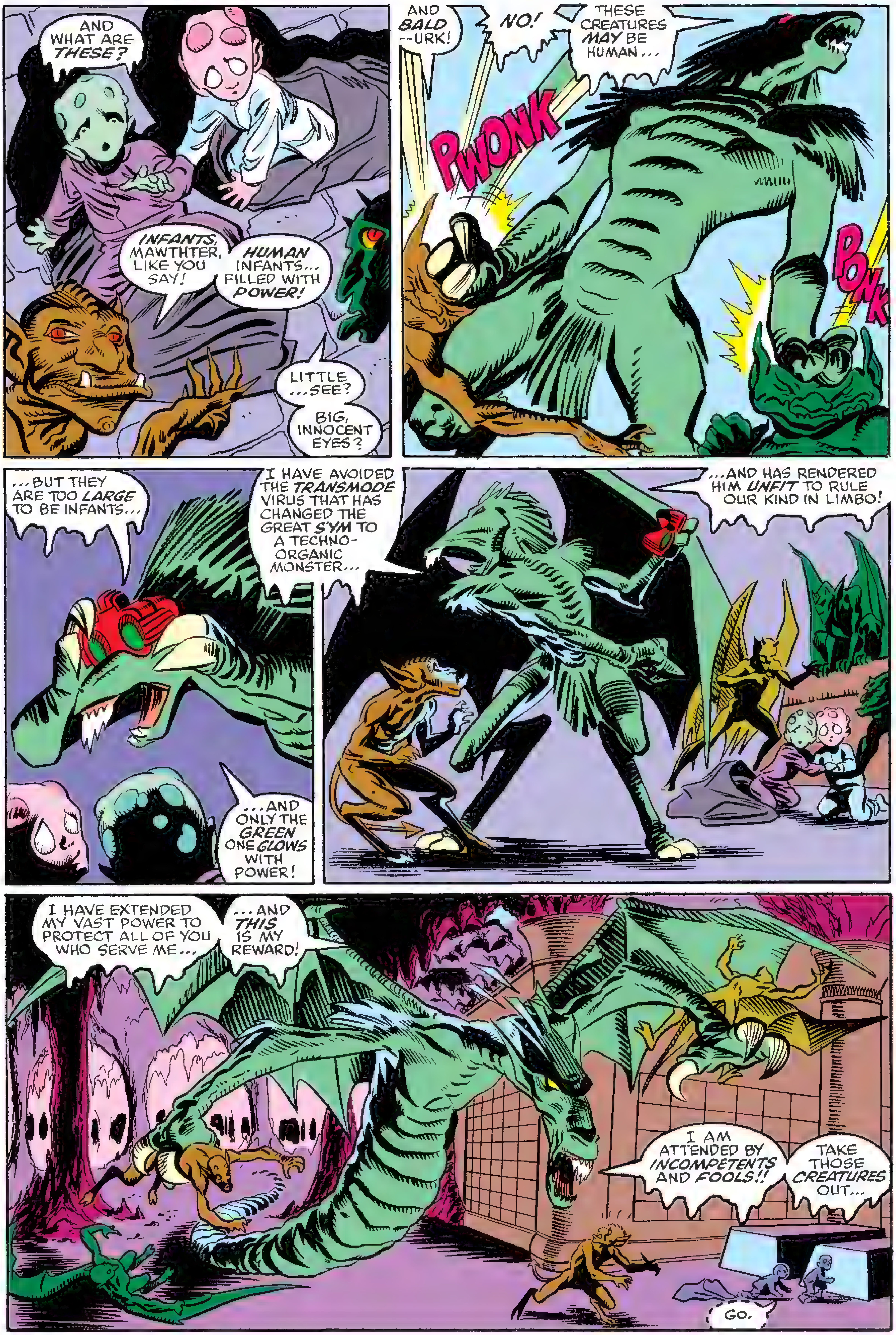
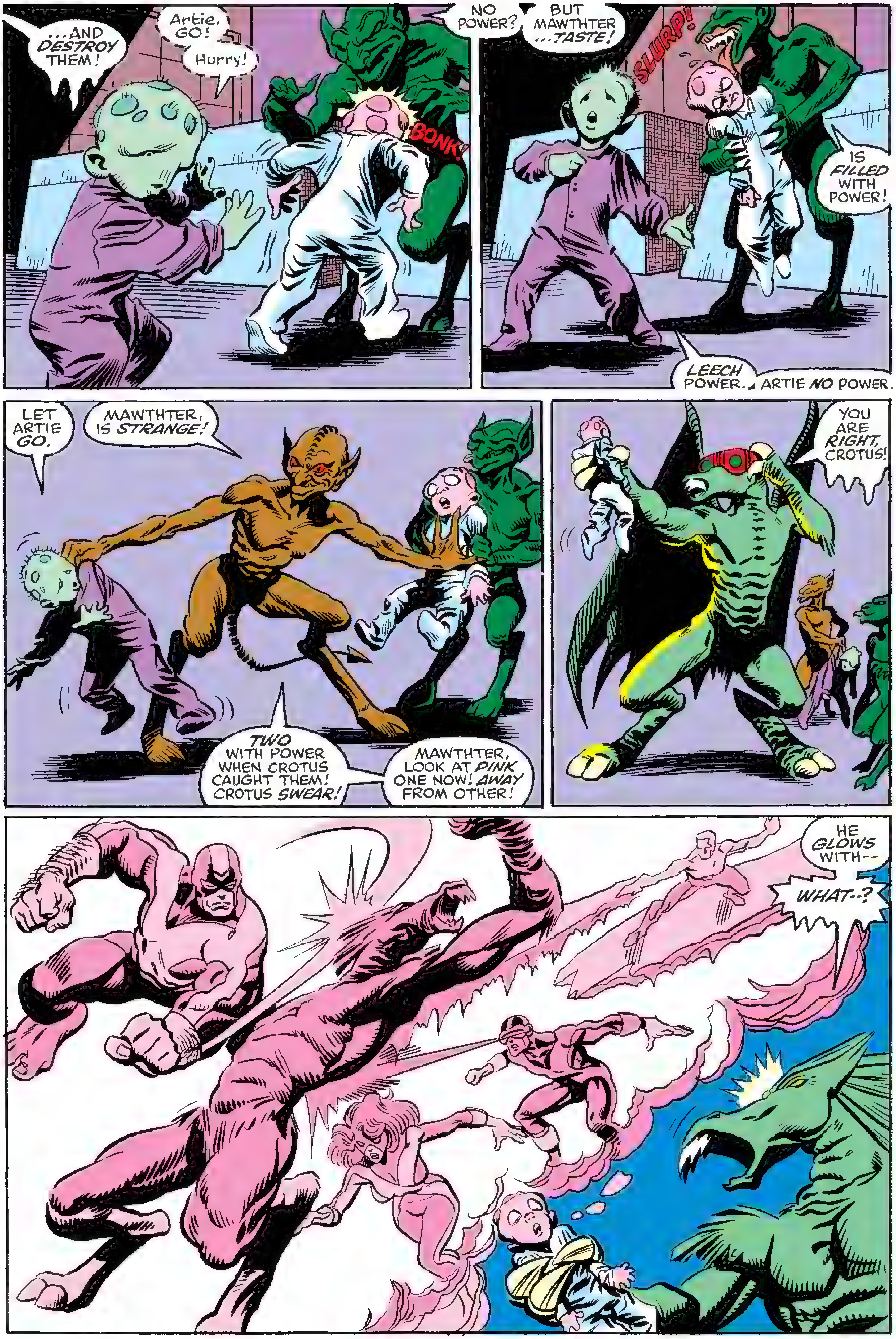
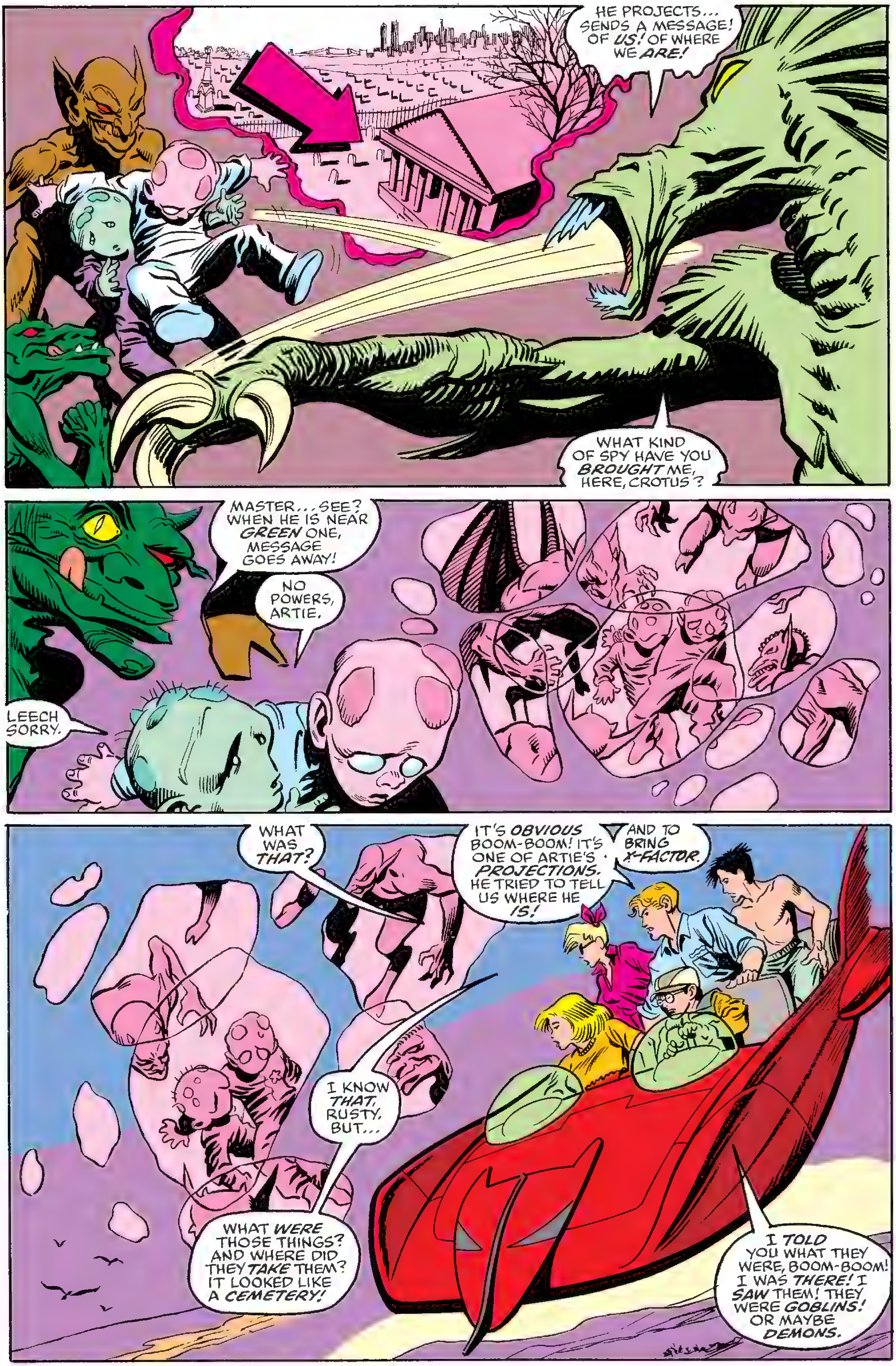

THERE BELOW-- N'ASTIRH'S *PALACE* OF THE *DEAD*!
INSIDE *QUICKLY!* SUN IS RISING!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
SPEED DEMON!
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
JON BOGDANOVE PENCILER
AL MILGROM INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
JOHN WELLINGTON COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

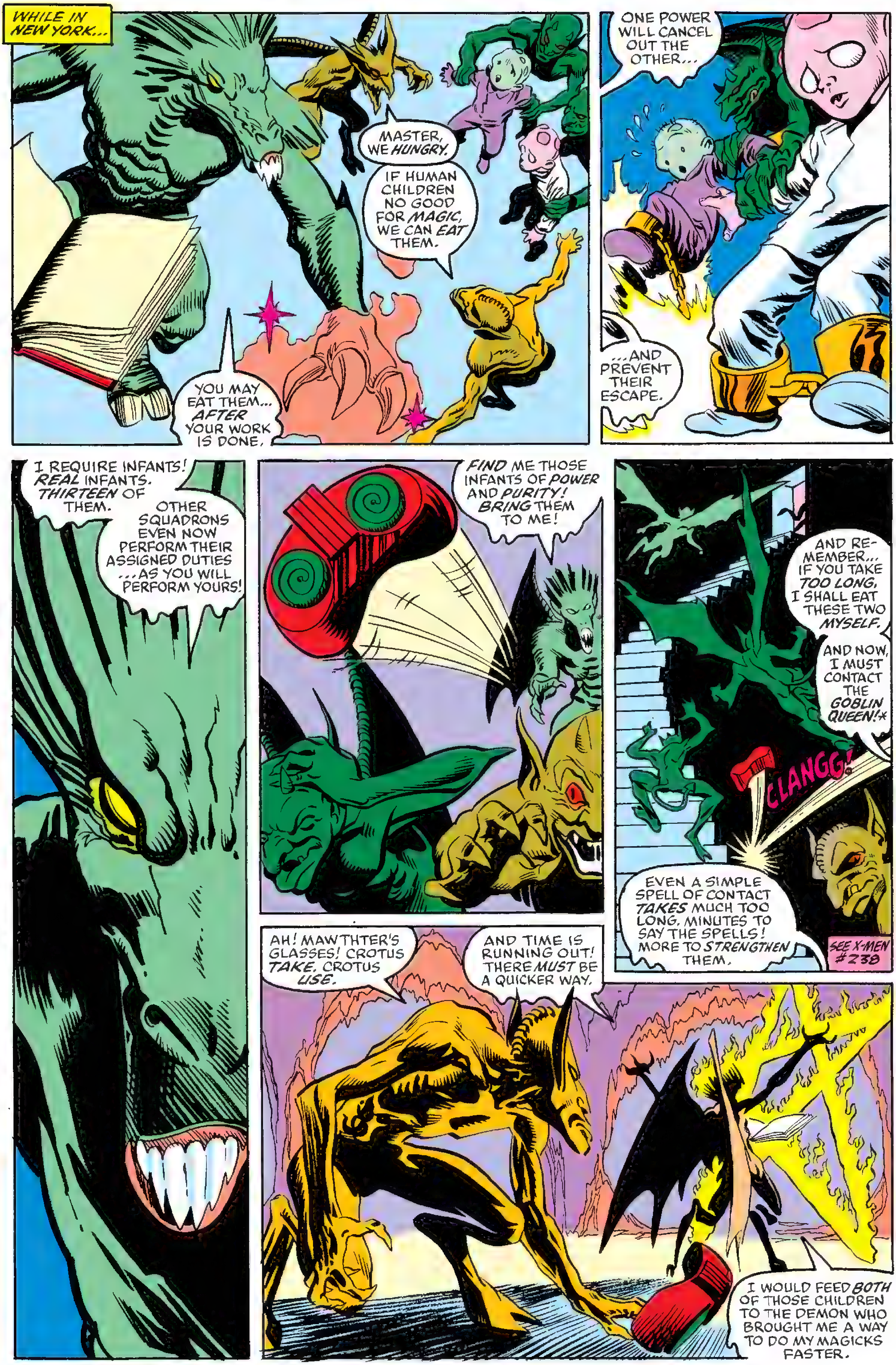

MASTER! LORD N'ASTIRH!
...I WILL RECALL MY CREATURES NOW, HODGE!* BUT IF ALL IS AS YOU SAY IT IS, I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE.
YOU WILL NOT DIE...AND YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL PROSPER.
*SEE X-FACTOR #34--BOB
BUMP
WE HAVE THEM, LORD N'ASTIRH!
PFWOOF
CLUMSY FOOLS!
THUMP
AS YOU COMMANDED!
CRASH
YOU INTERRUPT MY COMMUNICATIONS!
CROTUS... LOOK! LORD BELASCO'S ANCIENT BOOK OF SPELLS.
MAWTHTER HAS IT.
MASTER STOLE IT.
BROUGHT IT HERE.
WHAT YOU DO WITH IT, MAWTHTER?
IT IS THE TEMPLATE BY WHICH I WILL CREATE MY KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH!
SPELLS FOR COMMUNICATION! AND ACQUISITION!
BUT THE ETHER OF THIS WORLD IS DENSE. MAGICKS REQUIRE MORE FINESSE... MORE EFFORT, HERE... AND TIME.
TIME IS THE GREAT ENEMY. I NEED TIME! TO CONTACT THOSE WHO WILL BE MY ALLIES... AND THOSE I WILL EXPLOIT!
AND TO TWIST WHAT S'YM, MY RIVAL, MY ENEMY, WILL DO HERE... AND IN LIMBO... TO FURTHER MY OWN NEEDS.

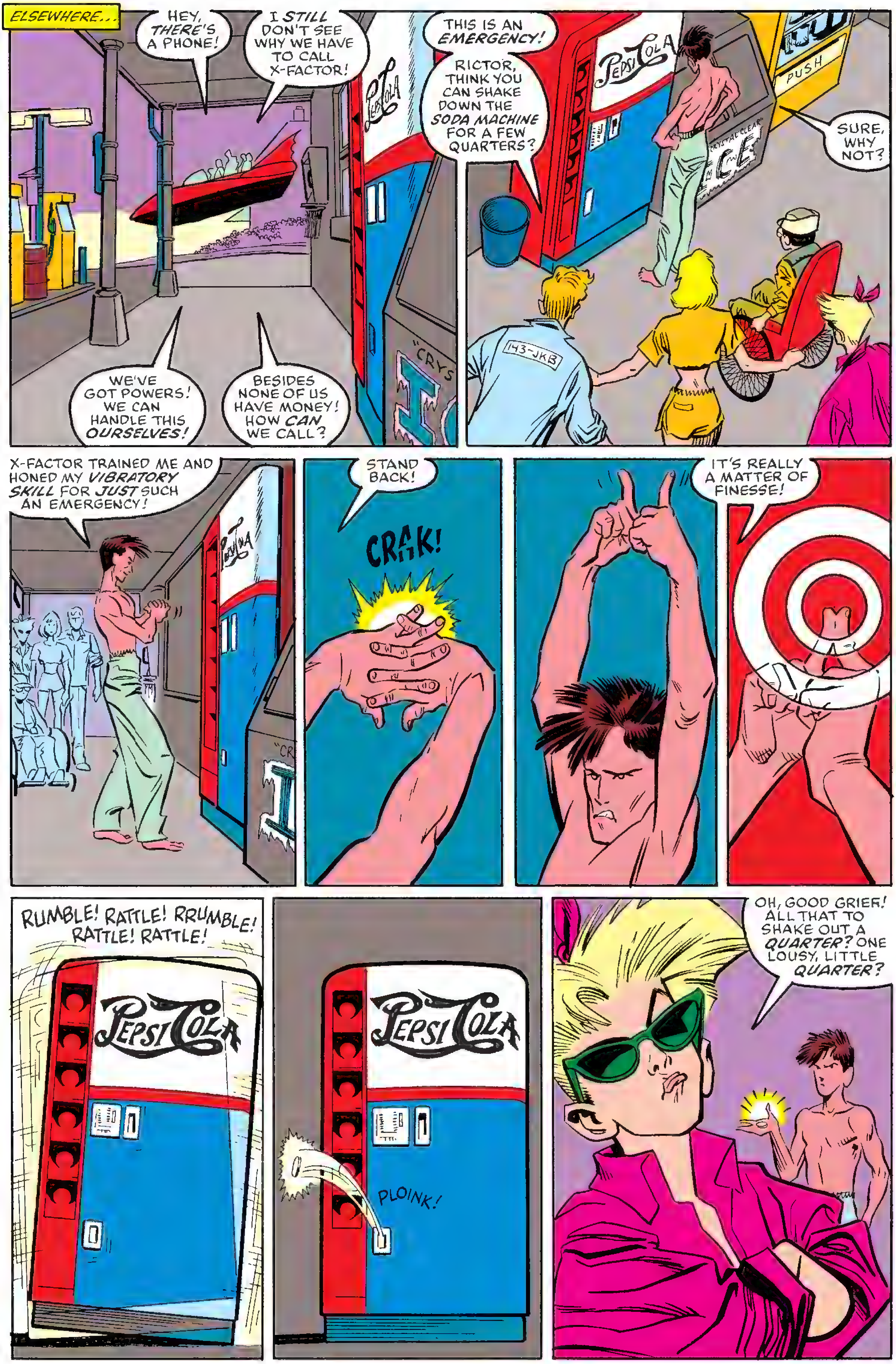

AND WHAT ARE *THESE?*
INFANTS, MAWTHTER, LIKE YOU SAY!
HUMAN INFANTS... FILLED WITH *POWER!*
LITTLE ...SEE?
BIG, INNOCENT EYES?
AND *BALD* --URK!
NO!
PWONK
THESE CREATURES *MAY* BE HUMAN...
PONK
...BUT THEY ARE TOO *LARGE* TO BE INFANTS...
...AND ONLY THE *GREEN* ONE *GLOWS* WITH POWER!
I HAVE AVOIDED THE *TRANSMODE* VIRUS THAT HAS CHANGED THE GREAT *S'YM* TO A TECHNO-ORGANIC MONSTER...
...AND HAS RENDERED HIM *UNFIT* TO RULE OUR KIND IN LIMBO!
I HAVE EXTENDED MY VAST POWER TO PROTECT ALL OF YOU WHO SERVE ME...
...AND *THIS* IS MY REWARD!
I AM ATTENDED BY *INCOMPETENTS* AND *FOOLS!!*
TAKE THOSE *CREATURES* OUT...
GO.

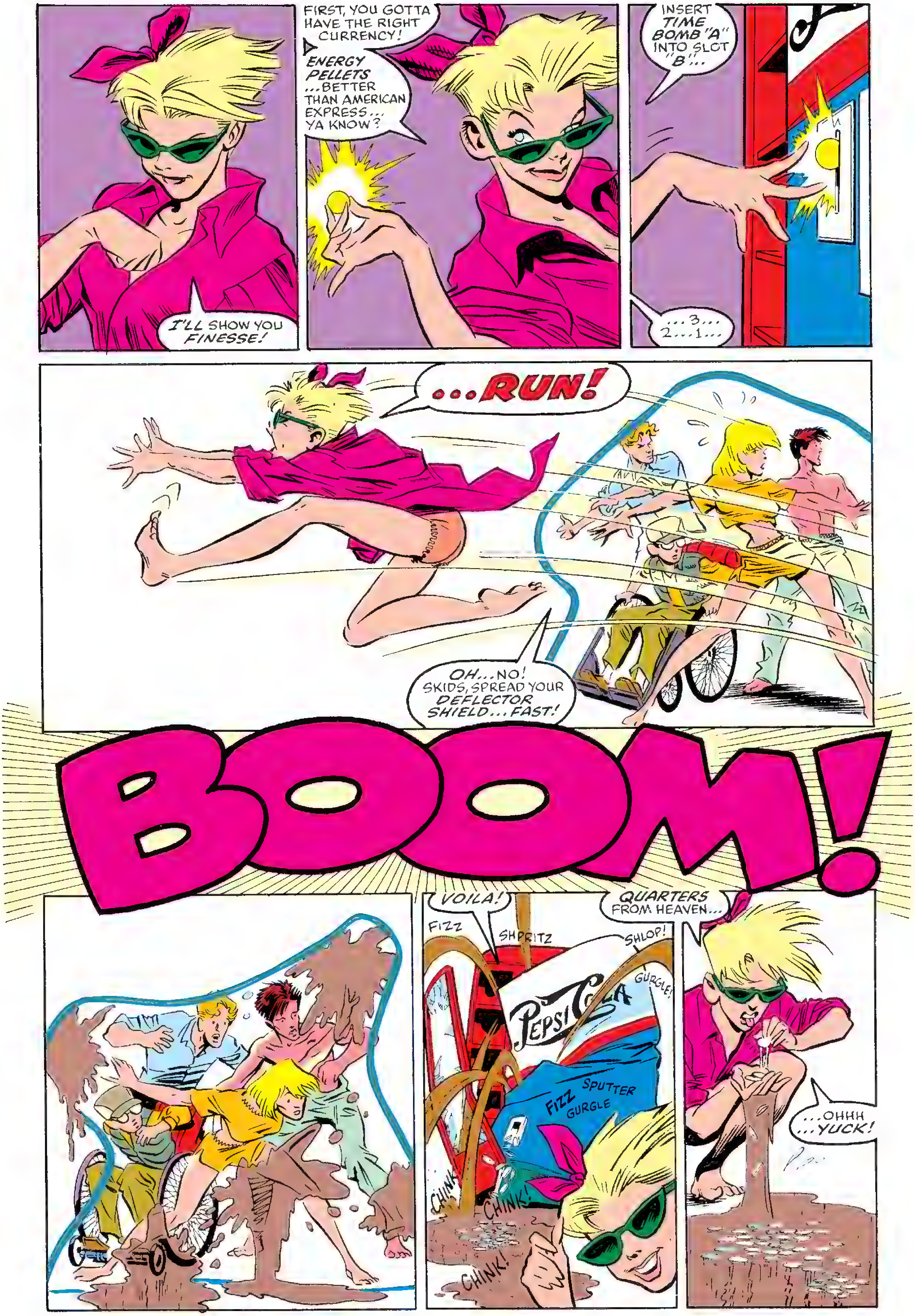

...AND DESTROY THEM!
Artie, GO!
Hurry!
BONK!
NO POWER?
BUT MAWTHTER ...TASTE!
SLURP!
IS FILLED WITH POWER!
LEECH POWER.
ARTIE NO POWER.
LET ARTIE GO.
MAWTHTER, IS STRANGE!
TWO WITH POWER WHEN CROTUS CAUGHT THEM! CROTUS SWEAR!
MAWTHTER, LOOK AT PINK ONE NOW! AWAY FROM OTHER!
YOU ARE RIGHT, CROTUS!
HE GLOWS WITH--
WHAT--?

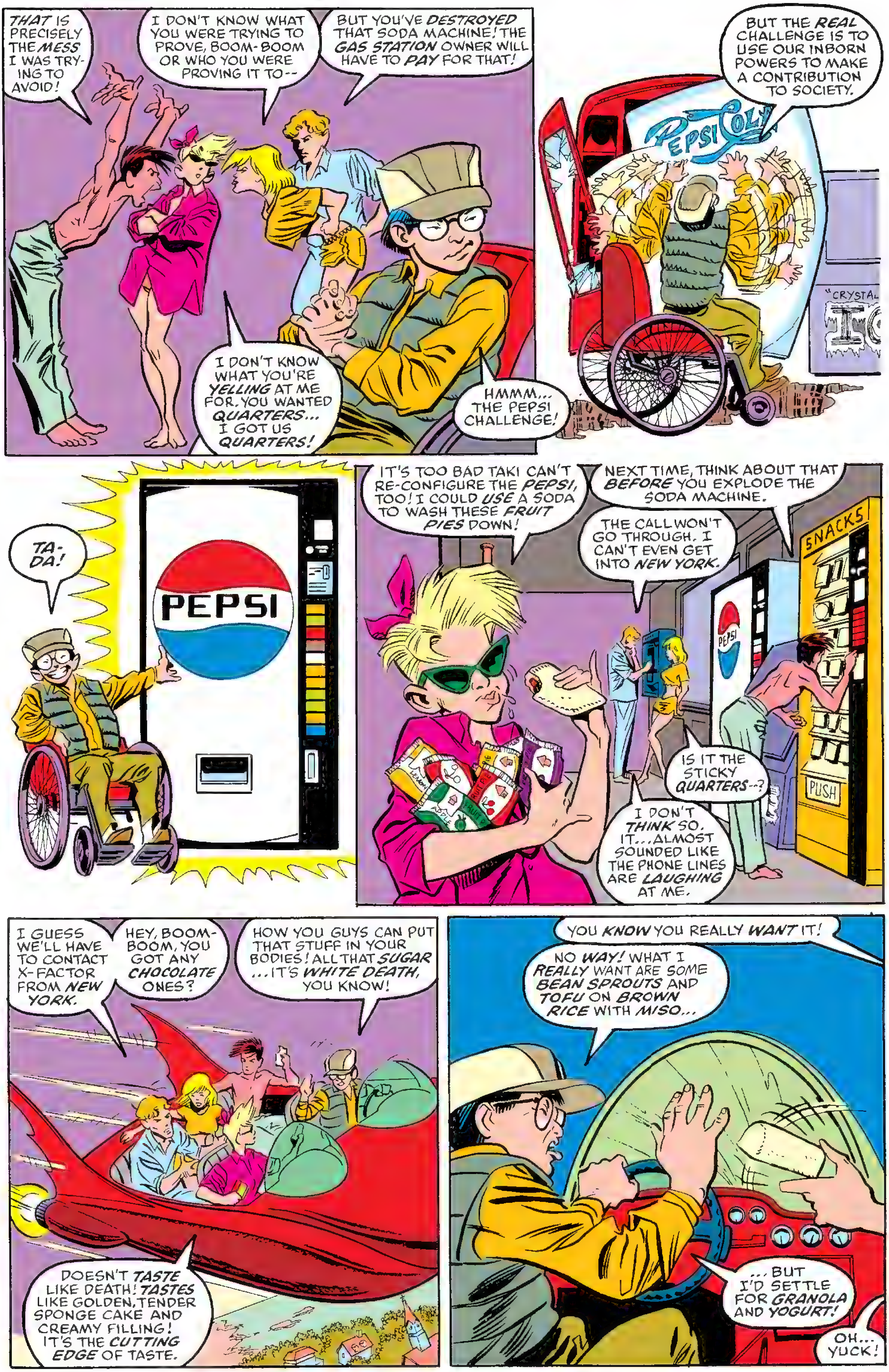

HE PROJECTS... SENDS A MESSAGE! OF *US!* OF WHERE WE *ARE!*
WHAT KIND OF SPY HAVE YOU *BROUGHT* ME, HERE, CROTUS?
MASTER... SEE? WHEN HE IS NEAR *GREEN* ONE, MESSAGE GOES AWAY!
NO POWERS, ARTIE.
LEECH SORRY.
WHAT WAS *THAT?*
IT'S *OBVIOUS* BOOM-BOOM! IT'S ONE OF ARTIE'S *PROJECTIONS.* HE TRIED TO TELL US WHERE HE *IS!*
AND TO BRING *X-FACTOR.*
I KNOW *THAT,* RUSTY. BUT...
WHAT *WERE* THOSE THINGS? AND WHERE DID THEY *TAKE* THEM? IT LOOKED LIKE A *CEMETERY!*
I *TOLD* YOU WHAT THEY WERE, BOOM-BOOM! I WAS *THERE!* I *SAW* THEM! THEY WERE *GOBLINS!* OR MAYBE *DEMONS.*

OH, COME ON, TAKI, IT CAN'T BE DEMONS! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS DEMONS...
...IS THERE--?
MAYBE THEY WERE EVIL MUTANTS THAT LOOKED LIKE DEMONS.
WHATEVER THEY WERE, THEY TOOK ARTIE AND LEECH TO NEW YORK. I RECOGNIZED THE TWIN TOWERS!
SO THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADING!
THOUGH HOW TO GET THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM.
UNLESS YOU GUYS BROUGHT A MAP, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH WAY NEW YORK IS.
NO SWEAT, M'MAN! HERE WE ARE. HERE'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
AWWWRIIIGHT! GUN IT, TAKI! NEW YORK, HERE WE COME!
GONNA KICK SOME DEMON... OR WHAT-EVER... TAIL!
SNAP!
WAIT, HOLD ON! YOU GUYS REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT WE'RE HOURS FROM NEW YORK...
...MOST OF YOU ARE IN PAJAMAS AND I'M IN PRISON CLOTHES -
AND TAKI'S TRANSPORT JUST ISN'T THAT FAST WITH ALL OF US ON BOARD.
LOOK, I APPRECIATE YOU BREAKING ME OUT OF NAVAL PRISON TO LEAD YOU, BUT WHERE I'M LEADING YOU IS TO A PHONE.
WE'RE GOING TO BRING IN THE BIG GUNS. WE'RE GONNA CALL X-FACTOR.

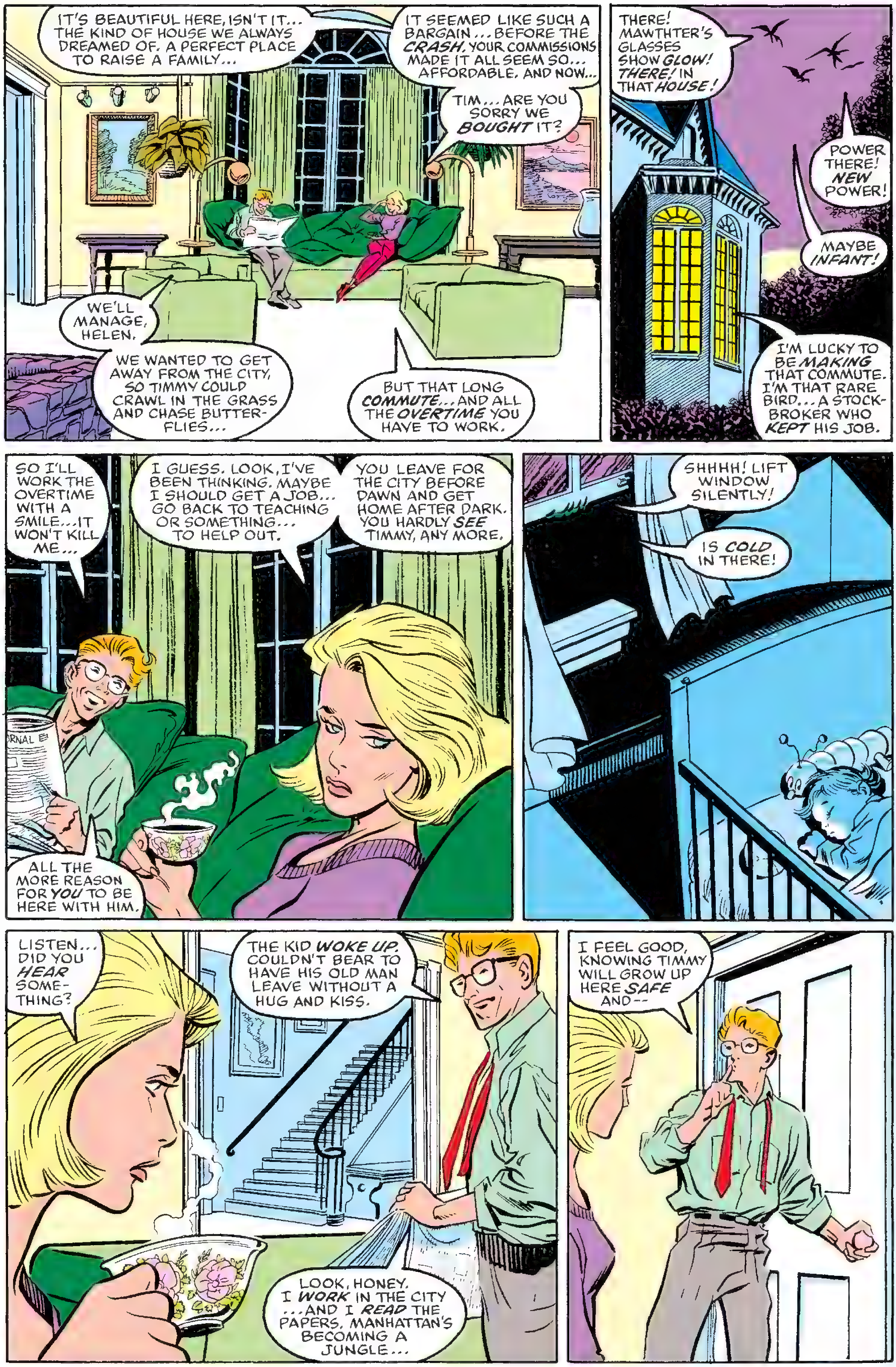

WHILE IN NEW YORK...
MASTER, WE HUNGRY.
IF HUMAN CHILDREN NO GOOD FOR MAGIC, WE CAN EAT THEM.
YOU MAY EAT THEM... AFTER YOUR WORK IS DONE.
ONE POWER WILL CANCEL OUT THE OTHER...
...AND PREVENT THEIR ESCAPE.
I REQUIRE INFANTS! REAL INFANTS. THIRTEEN OF THEM.
OTHER SQUADRONS EVEN NOW PERFORM THEIR ASSIGNED DUTIES ...AS YOU WILL PERFORM YOURS!
FIND ME THOSE INFANTS OF POWER AND PURITY! BRING THEM TO ME!
AND REMEMBER... IF YOU TAKE TOO LONG, I SHALL EAT THESE TWO MYSELF.
AND NOW, I MUST CONTACT THE GOBLIN QUEEN!*
CLANGG!
EVEN A SIMPLE SPELL OF CONTACT TAKES MUCH TOO LONG. MINUTES TO SAY THE SPELLS! MORE TO STRENGTHEN THEM.
*SEE X-MEN #238
AH! MAWTHTER'S GLASSES! CROTUS TAKE. CROTUS USE.
AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT! THERE MUST BE A QUICKER WAY.
I WOULD FEED BOTH OF THOSE CHILDREN TO THE DEMON WHO BROUGHT ME A WAY TO DO MY MAGICKS FASTER.

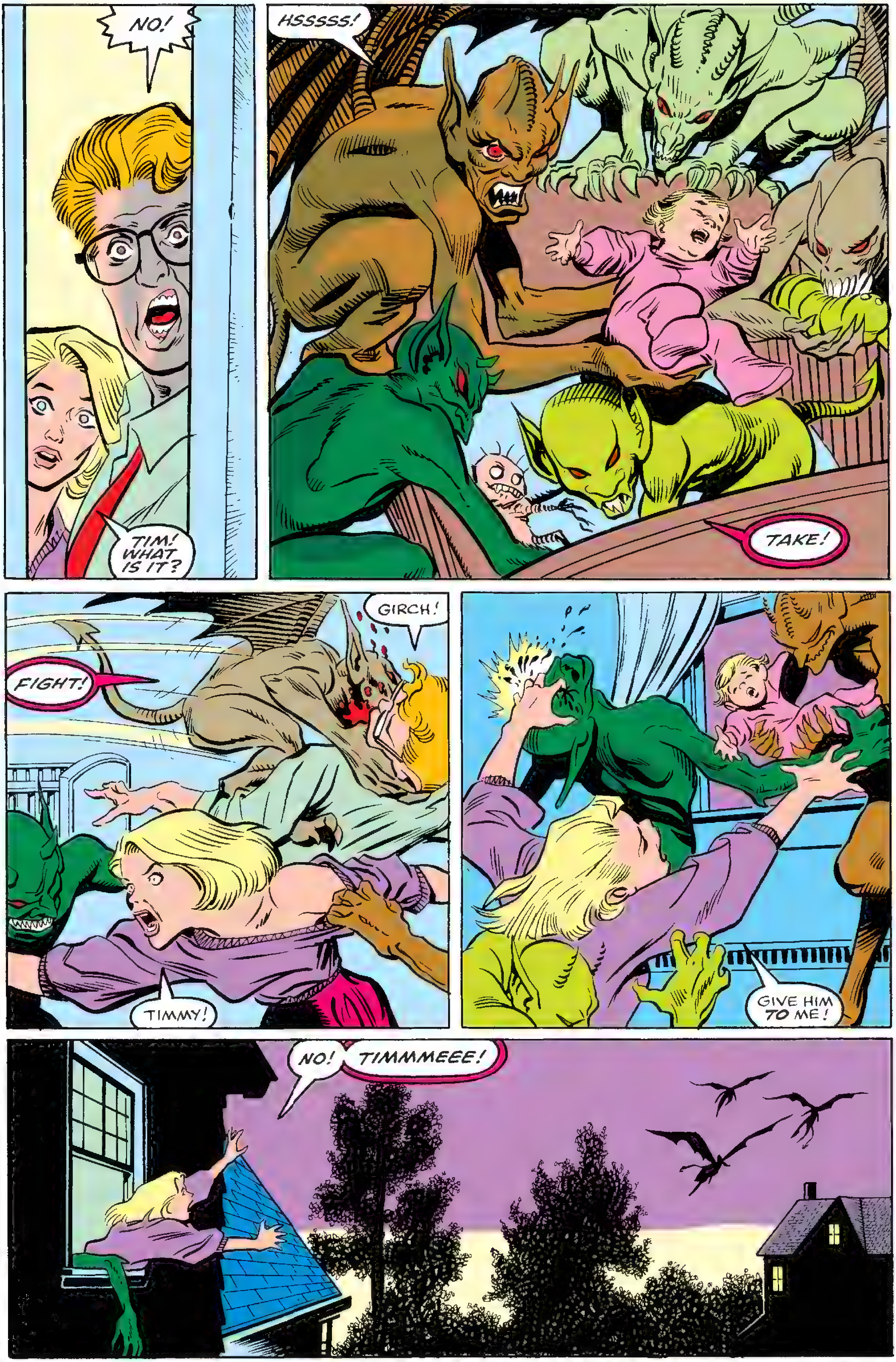

ELSEWHERE...
HEY, THERE'S A PHONE!
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO CALL X-FACTOR!
WE'VE GOT POWERS! WE CAN HANDLE THIS OURSELVES!
BESIDES NONE OF US HAVE MONEY! HOW CAN WE CALL?
PEPSI-COLA
"CRYS
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
RICTOR, THINK YOU CAN SHAKE DOWN THE SODA MACHINE FOR A FEW QUARTERS?
SURE, WHY NOT?
PUSH
"CRYSTAL CLEAR" ICE
143-JKB
X-FACTOR TRAINED ME AND HONED MY VIBRATORY SKILL FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY!
STAND BACK!
CRAK!
IT'S REALLY A MATTER OF FINESSE!
RUMBLE! RATTLE! RRUMBLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!
PEPSI-COLA
PLOINK!
OH, GOOD GRIEF! ALL THAT TO SHAKE OUT A QUARTER? ONE LOUSY, LITTLE QUARTER?

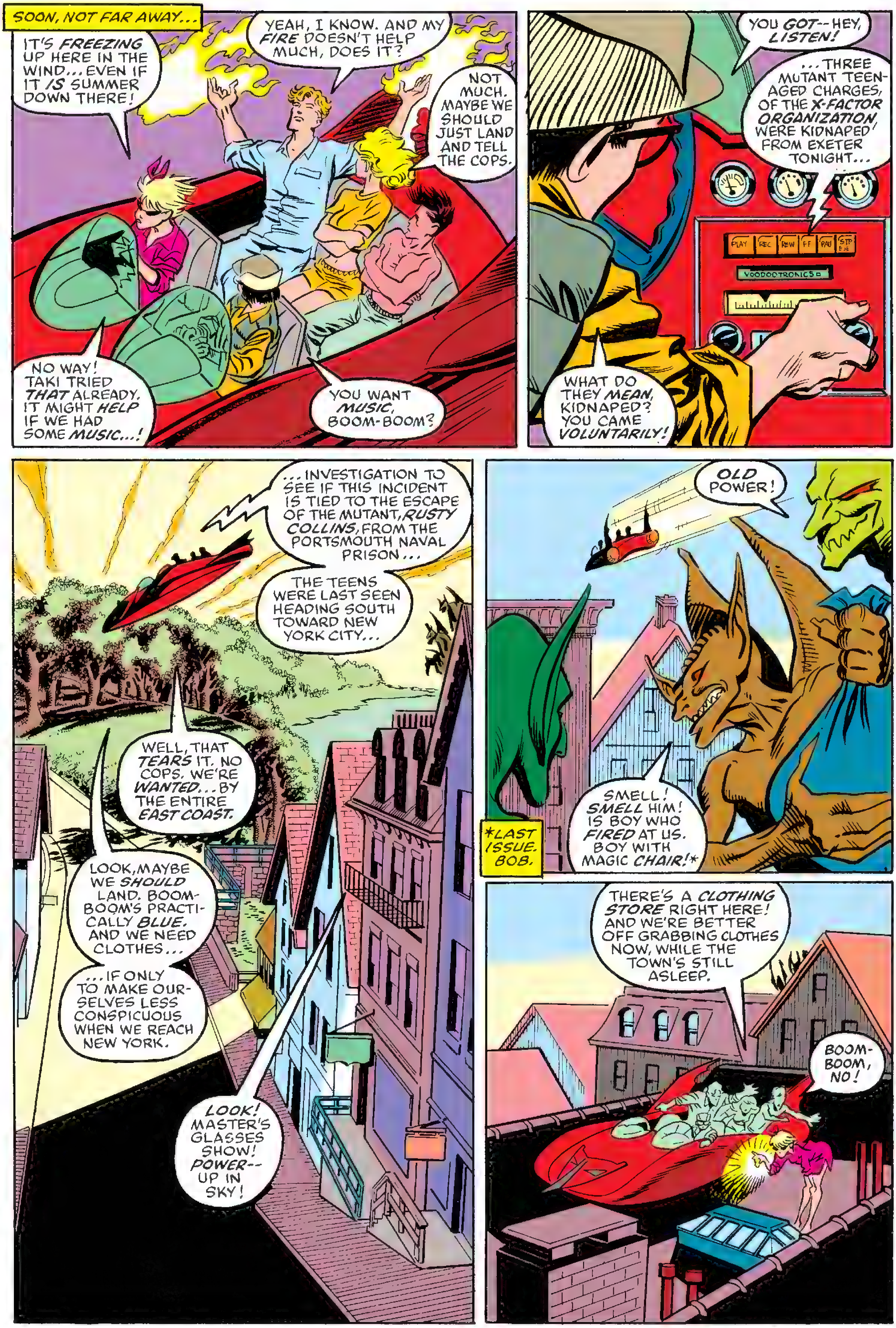

I'LL SHOW YOU FINESSE!
FIRST, YOU GOTTA HAVE THE RIGHT CURRENCY!
ENERGY PELLETS ...BETTER THAN AMERICAN EXPRESS... YA KNOW?
INSERT TIME BOMB "A" INTO SLOT "B"...
...3... 2...1...
...RUN!
OH...NO! SKIDS, SPREAD YOUR DEFLECTOR SHIELD...FAST!
BOOM!
VOILA!
FIZZ
SHPRITZ
SHLOP!
GURGLE!
Pepsi Cola
FIZZ
SPUTTER
GURGLE
CHINK
CHINK!
CHINK!
QUARTERS FROM HEAVEN...
...OHHH ...YUCK!

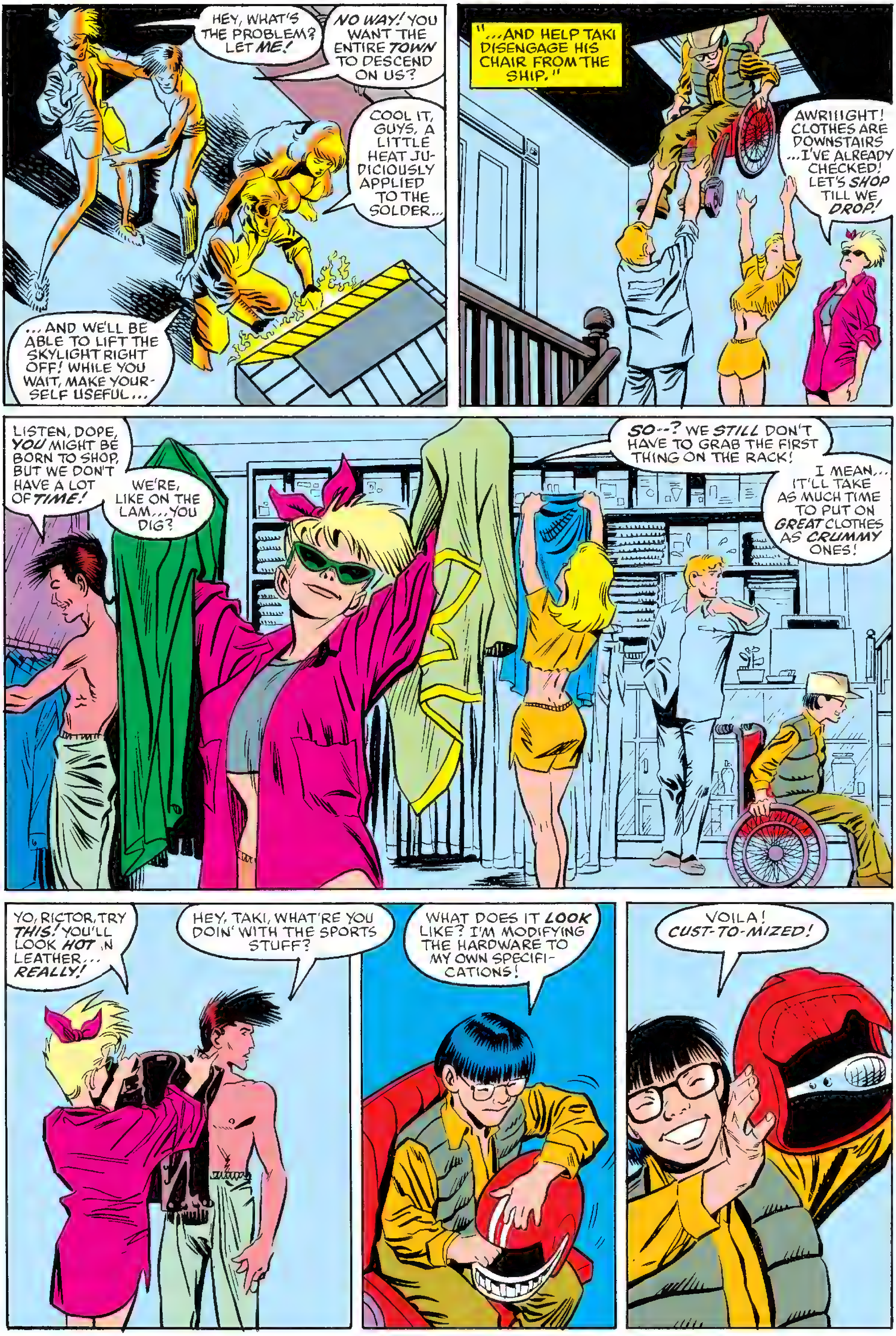

THAT IS PRECISELY THE MESS I WAS TRYING TO AVOID!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO PROVE, BOOM-BOOM OR WHO YOU WERE PROVING IT TO--
BUT YOU'VE DESTROYED THAT SODA MACHINE! THE GAS STATION OWNER WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE YELLING AT ME FOR. YOU WANTED QUARTERS... I GOT US QUARTERS!
HMMM... THE PEPSI CHALLENGE!
BUT THE REAL CHALLENGE IS TO USE OUR INBORN POWERS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.
PEPSI
"CRYSTAL
TA-DA!
PEPSI
IT'S TOO BAD TAKI CAN'T RE-CONFIGURE THE PEPSI, TOO! I COULD USE A SODA TO WASH THESE FRUIT PIES DOWN!
NEXT TIME, THINK ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU EXPLODE THE SODA MACHINE.
THE CALL WON'T GO THROUGH. I CAN'T EVEN GET INTO NEW YORK.
SNACKS
PEPSI
IS IT THE STICKY QUARTERS--?
I DON'T THINK SO. IT... ALMOST SOUNDED LIKE THE PHONE LINES ARE LAUGHING AT ME.
PUSH
LEMON
APPLE
FRUIT PIE
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO CONTACT X-FACTOR FROM NEW YORK.
HEY, BOOM-BOOM, YOU GOT ANY CHOCOLATE ONES?
HOW YOU GUYS CAN PUT THAT STUFF IN YOUR BODIES! ALL THAT SUGAR ...IT'S WHITE DEATH, YOU KNOW!
DOESN'T TASTE LIKE DEATH! TASTES LIKE GOLDEN, TENDER SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMY FILLING! IT'S THE CUTTING EDGE OF TASTE.
YOU KNOW YOU REALLY WANT IT!
NO WAY! WHAT I REALLY WANT ARE SOME BEAN SPROUTS AND TOFU ON BROWN RICE WITH MISO...
...BUT I'D SETTLE FOR GRANOLA AND YOGURT!
OH... YUCK!

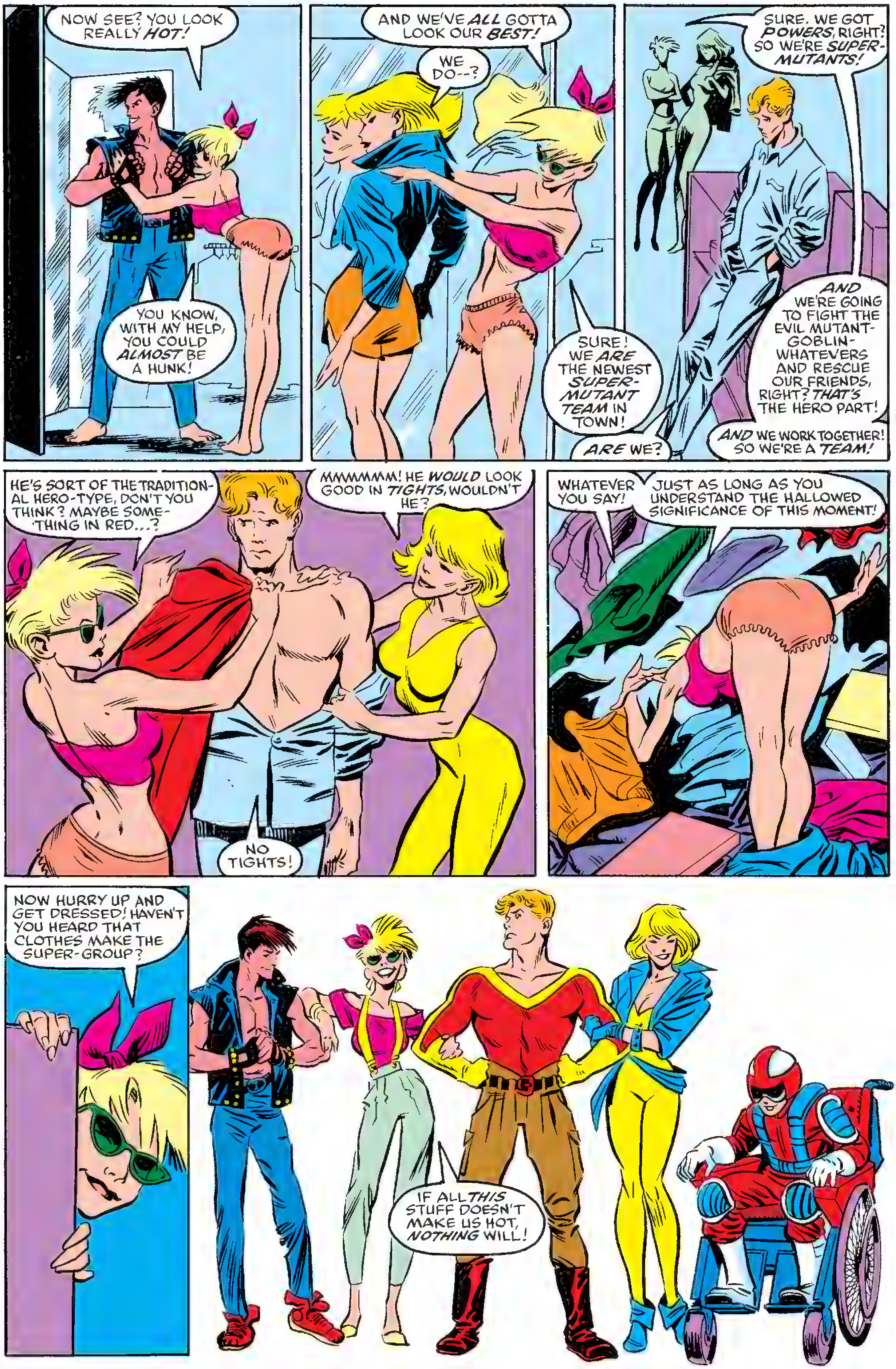
WHILE IN MONTEBELLO, NEW YORK...
TIMMY'S STILL ASLEEP. NO WONDER. THE SUN ISN'T EVEN UP.
Should I wake you, baby? Take you down to see your daddy?
NO... BETTER LET YOU SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER.
HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO LOOK SO GORGEOUS SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
THERE'S A HIDEOUS PORTRAIT IN THE CLOSET, IN CURLERS, FACE CREAM AND A ROBE. WANT SOME TOAST?
THE WALL
43¢
Cafe VIENNA
JUST COFFEE. I'M NEVER HUNGRY THIS EARLY.
THEN WE'LL HAVE COFFEE IN THE PARLOR. HOW'S THE WORLD OF HIGH FINANCE?
MORE BULLISH THAN BEARISH, AT LEAST FOR NOW... AND FOR THAT WE CAN BE GRATEFUL.
THE BIG NEWS SEEMS TO BE THE WEATHER...
"NEW YORK CONTINUES HOT AND HUMID... AND IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE. NOT A BREAK IN SIGHT, AND THIS IS BARELY JUNE."
YOU PRACTICALLY HAVE TO BE A FIRE-WALKER TO MAKE IT FROM THE TRAIN TO THE BROKERAGE FIRMS.
AND PEOPLE ARE SAYING THE DARNEDEST THINGS...
LIKE WHAT, TIM?
"OH... ONE OF THE SECRETARIES SAID HER SCARF TRIED TO STRANGLE HER. AND BOB CLAIMED A MANHOLE COVER ATTACKED HIM."
"WHAT IS IT? HEAT-STROKE INDUCED PARANOIA?"
"PROBABLY. THANK HEAVEN THIS HOUSE HAS CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING. AT LEAST TIMMY CAN SLEEP IN COMFORT."


IT'S BEAUTIFUL HERE, ISN'T IT... THE KIND OF HOUSE WE ALWAYS DREAMED OF. A PERFECT PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY...
IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH A BARGAIN... BEFORE THE *CRASH.* YOUR COMMISSIONS MADE IT ALL SEEM SO... AFFORDABLE. AND NOW...
TIM... ARE YOU SORRY WE *BOUGHT* IT?
WE'LL MANAGE, HELEN.
WE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THE CITY, SO TIMMY COULD CRAWL IN THE GRASS AND CHASE BUTTERFLIES...
BUT THAT LONG *COMMUTE*... AND ALL THE *OVERTIME* YOU HAVE TO WORK.
THERE! MAWTHTER'S GLASSES SHOW *GLOW! THERE!* IN THAT *HOUSE!*
POWER THERE! *NEW* POWER!
MAYBE *INFANT!*
I'M LUCKY TO BE *MAKING* THAT COMMUTE. I'M THAT RARE BIRD... A STOCKBROKER WHO *KEPT* HIS JOB.
SO I'LL WORK THE OVERTIME WITH A SMILE... IT WON'T KILL ME...
I GUESS. LOOK, I'VE BEEN THINKING. MAYBE I SHOULD GET A JOB... GO BACK TO TEACHING OR SOMETHING... TO HELP OUT.
YOU LEAVE FOR THE CITY BEFORE DAWN AND GET HOME AFTER DARK. YOU HARDLY *SEE* TIMMY, ANY MORE.
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR *YOU* TO BE HERE WITH HIM.
RNAL
SHHHH! LIFT WINDOW SILENTLY!
IS *COLD* IN THERE!
LISTEN... DID YOU *HEAR* SOMETHING?
THE KID *WOKE UP.* COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE HIS OLD MAN LEAVE WITHOUT A HUG AND KISS.
LOOK, HONEY. I *WORK* IN THE CITY ...AND I *READ* THE PAPERS. MANHATTAN'S BECOMING A JUNGLE...
I FEEL GOOD, KNOWING TIMMY WILL GROW UP HERE *SAFE* AND--

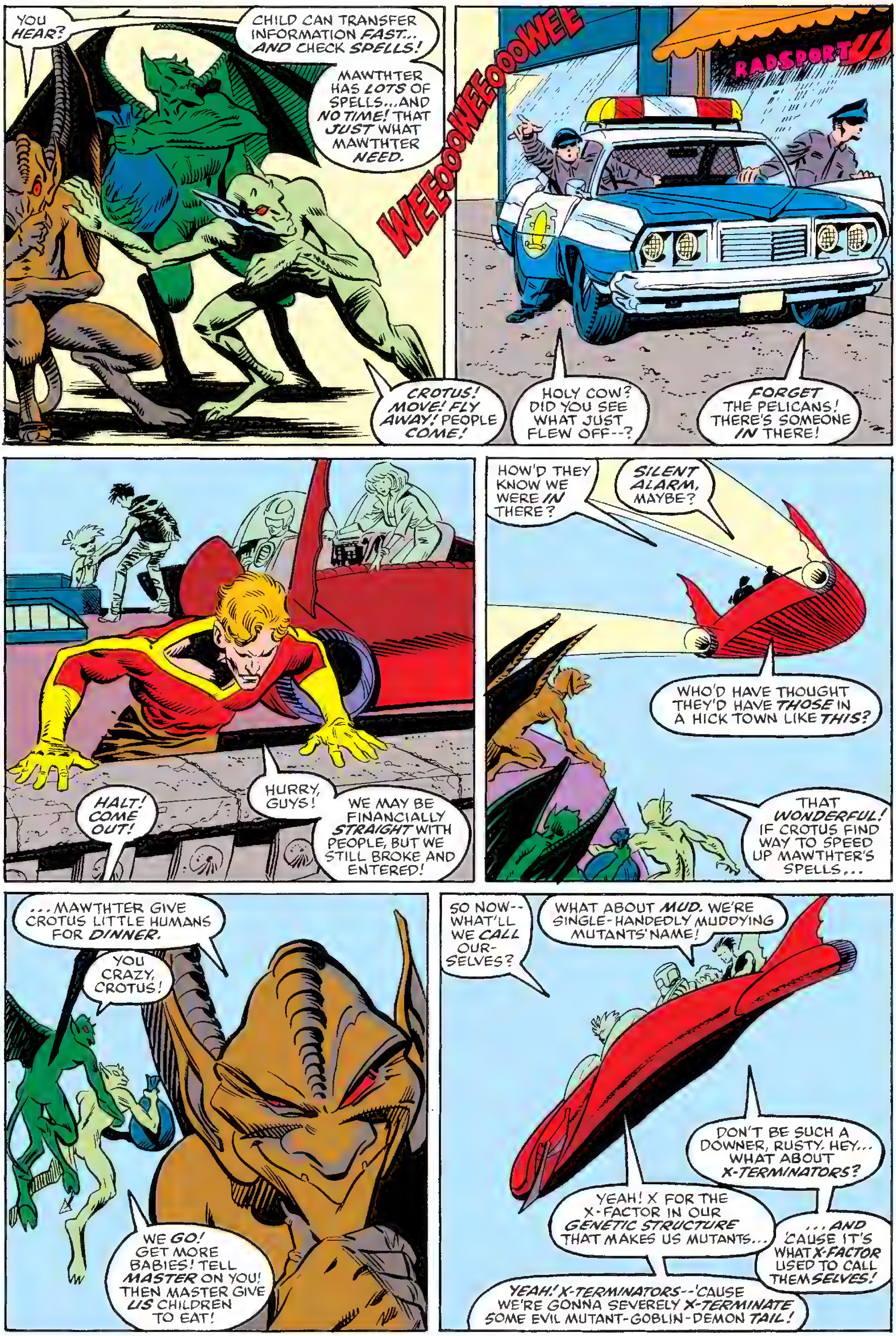

NO!
TIM! WHAT IS IT?
HSSSSS!
TAKE!
FIGHT!
GIRCH!
TIMMY!
GIVE HIM TO ME!
NO!
TIMMMEEE!

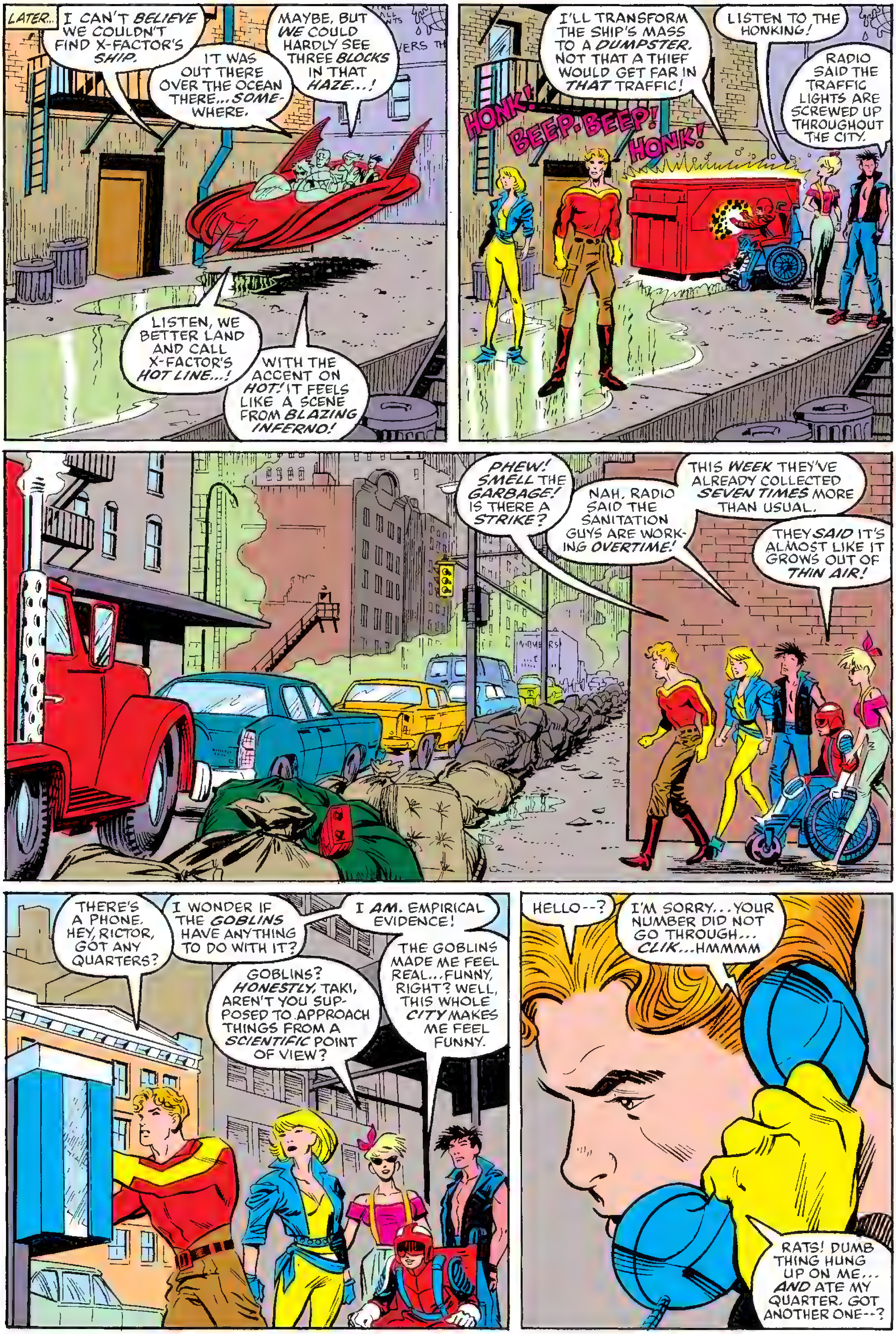

SOON, NOT FAR AWAY...
IT'S FREEZING UP HERE IN THE WIND... EVEN IF IT IS SUMMER DOWN THERE!
YEAH, I KNOW. AND MY FIRE DOESN'T HELP MUCH, DOES IT?
NOT MUCH. MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST LAND AND TELL THE COPS.
NO WAY! TAKI TRIED THAT ALREADY. IT MIGHT HELP IF WE HAD SOME MUSIC...!
YOU WANT MUSIC, BOOM-BOOM?
YOU GOT-- HEY, LISTEN!
...THREE MUTANT TEEN-AGED CHARGES, OF THE X-FACTOR ORGANIZATION, WERE KIDNAPED FROM EXETER TONIGHT...
PLAY
REC
REW
FF
PAU
STP EJE
VOODOOTRONICS
WHAT DO THEY MEAN, KIDNAPED? YOU CAME VOLUNTARILY!
...INVESTIGATION TO SEE IF THIS INCIDENT IS TIED TO THE ESCAPE OF THE MUTANT, RUSTY COLLINS, FROM THE PORTSMOUTH NAVAL PRISON...
THE TEENS WERE LAST SEEN HEADING SOUTH TOWARD NEW YORK CITY...
WELL, THAT TEARS IT. NO COPS. WE'RE WANTED... BY THE ENTIRE EAST COAST.
LOOK, MAYBE WE SHOULD LAND. BOOM-BOOM'S PRACTICALLY BLUE. AND WE NEED CLOTHES...
...IF ONLY TO MAKE OURSELVES LESS CONSPICUOUS WHEN WE REACH NEW YORK.
LOOK! MASTER'S GLASSES SHOW! POWER-- UP IN SKY!
OLD POWER!
SMELL! SMELL HIM! IS BOY WHO FIRED AT US. BOY WITH MAGIC CHAIR!*
*LAST ISSUE. BOB.
THERE'S A CLOTHING STORE RIGHT HERE! AND WE'RE BETTER OFF GRABBING CLOTHES NOW, WHILE THE TOWN'S STILL ASLEEP.
BOOM-BOOM, NO!

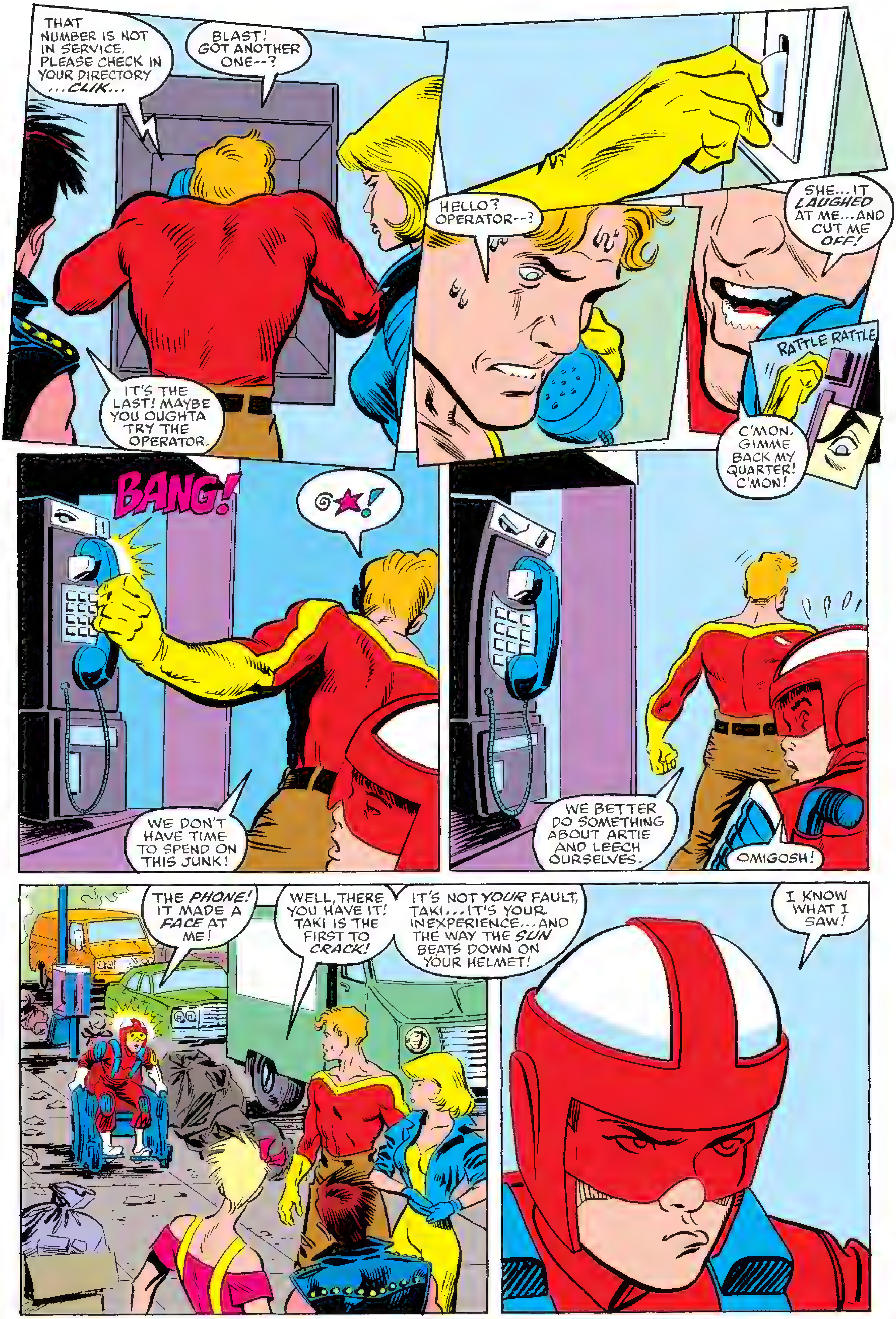

HEY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? LET *ME!*
NO WAY! YOU WANT THE ENTIRE *TOWN* TO DESCEND ON US?
COOL IT, GUYS, A LITTLE HEAT JUDICIOUSLY APPLIED TO THE SOLDER...
...AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIFT THE SKYLIGHT RIGHT OFF! WHILE YOU WAIT, MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL...
"...AND HELP TAKI DISENGAGE HIS CHAIR FROM THE SHIP."
AWRIIIGHT! CLOTHES ARE DOWNSTAIRS ...I'VE ALREADY CHECKED! LET'S *SHOP* TILL WE *DROP!*
LISTEN, DOPE, *YOU* MIGHT BE BORN TO SHOP, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF *TIME!*
WE'RE, LIKE ON THE LAM...YOU DIG?
SO--? WE *STILL* DON'T HAVE TO GRAB THE FIRST THING ON THE RACK!
I MEAN... IT'LL TAKE AS MUCH TIME TO PUT ON *GREAT* CLOTHES AS *CRUMMY* ONES!
YO, RICTOR, TRY *THIS!* YOU'LL LOOK *HOT* IN LEATHER... *REALLY!*
HEY, TAKI, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' WITH THE SPORTS STUFF?
WHAT DOES IT *LOOK* LIKE? I'M MODIFYING THE HARDWARE TO MY OWN SPECIFICATIONS!
VOILA! *CUST-TO-MIZED!*

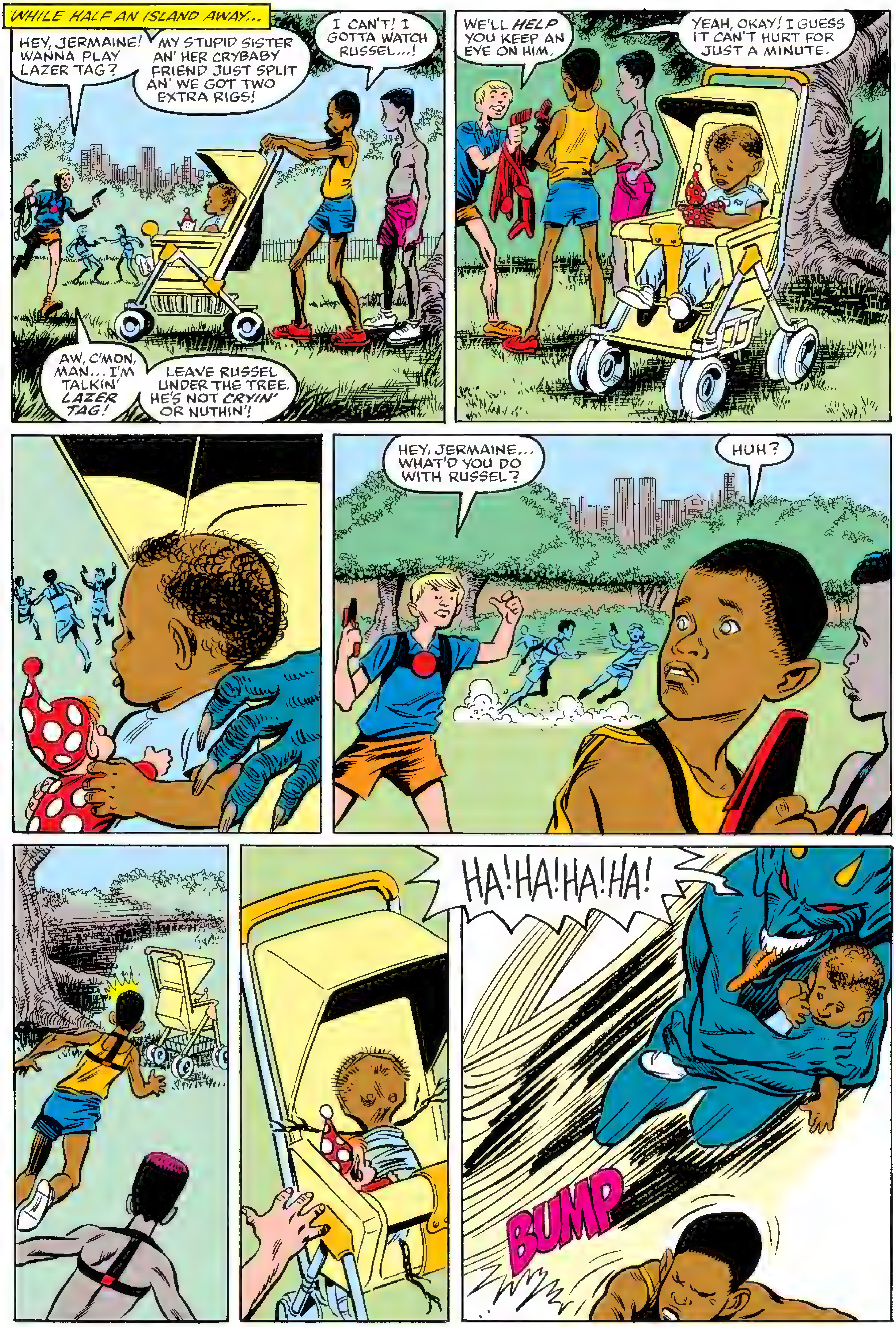

NOW SEE? YOU LOOK REALLY *HOT!*
YOU KNOW, WITH MY HELP, YOU COULD *ALMOST* BE A HUNK!
AND WE'VE *ALL* GOTTA LOOK OUR *BEST!*
WE DO--?
SURE! WE *ARE* THE NEWEST *SUPER-MUTANT TEAM* IN TOWN!
ARE WE?
SURE. WE GOT *POWERS*, RIGHT? SO WE'RE *SUPER-MUTANTS!*
AND WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THE EVIL MUTANT-GOBLIN-WHATEVERS AND RESCUE OUR FRIENDS, RIGHT? *THAT'S* THE HERO PART!
AND WE WORK TOGETHER! SO WE'RE A *TEAM!*
HE'S SORT OF THE TRADITIONAL HERO-TYPE, DON'T YOU THINK? MAYBE SOMETHING IN RED...?
MMMMMM! HE *WOULD* LOOK GOOD IN *TIGHTS*, WOULDN'T HE?
NO TIGHTS!
WHATEVER YOU SAY!
JUST AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THE HALLOWED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MOMENT!
NOW HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT CLOTHES MAKE THE SUPER-GROUP?
IF ALL *THIS* STUFF DOESN'T MAKE US HOT, *NOTHING* WILL!

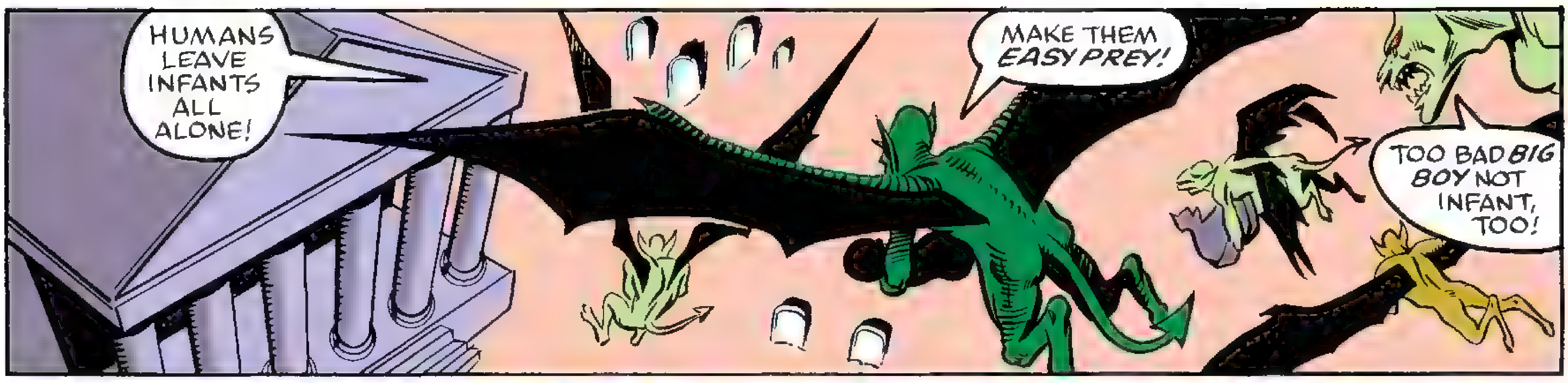
WHAT THEY *DO* IN THERE?
THEY TRY ON *CLOTHES!*
HUMPH! THEY HAVE POWER, BUT TOO *BIG* FOR INFANTS. WHY WE WATCH 'EM?
WE *SUPPOSED* GET *BABIES.*
RADSPORT
SPORTFASHION OUTFITTERS
I HUNGRY. HEY... MAYBE WE EAT ONE IN BAG!
NO! LORD S'YM *NEED* HIM TO BRING *LIMBO* TO *EARTH!*
BUT *N'ASTIRH* WILL FOCUS *POWER* THROUGH SPELLS IN BOOK. *IF* HE CAN DO SPELLS *FASTER.*
BOUNDARY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS THINS ALREADY. LIMBO MAGIC BEGINS TRANSFORMATION OF NEXUS. AND SOON...
ANYBODY GOT AN IDEA HOW US "*SUPER HEROES*" ARE GONNA *PAY* FOR ALL OF THIS?
I GOT SOME--YUCK--QUARTERS LEFT!
NO SWEAT, RIC, DON'T BOTHER TO UNSTICK YOUR CASH! OUR PROBLEM IS *SOLVED!*
WOW! DIG IT! TAKI'S WIELDING *PLASTIC!*
I JUST *MADE* IT, OF COURSE... TO ACCESS THE MONEY IN MY *TRUST FUND.*
TRUST FUND--?
MONSTERCHARGE
YEAH. MOM AND DAD LEFT ME *LOADED!*
JUST ...*HOW* LOADED...?
DOES THE WORD "*MITSHBISHI*" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
WHILE I'M AT IT, I'M PAYING FOR THE SKYLIGHT AND THE GAS STATION'S QUARTERS.
ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW COMPUTERS ALLOW THE *INSTANTANEOUS TRANSFER* OF INFORMATION.
EVEN *BEFORE* I FOUND OUT I WAS A MUTANT, I WAS ALWAYS THE BEST AT COMPUTERS.
BUT... HOW CAN YOU HANDLE THAT STUFF? WASN'T YOUR SCHOOL FOR KIDS WITH READING PROBLEMS?
MONEYBAG
ACTUALLY, MY *REAL* PROBLEM'S WITH *WRITING.* BUT MY COMPUTER *HELPS.* IT EVEN HAS A *SPELLING CHECKER!*
A CHECKER... TO *CHECK SPELLS?*

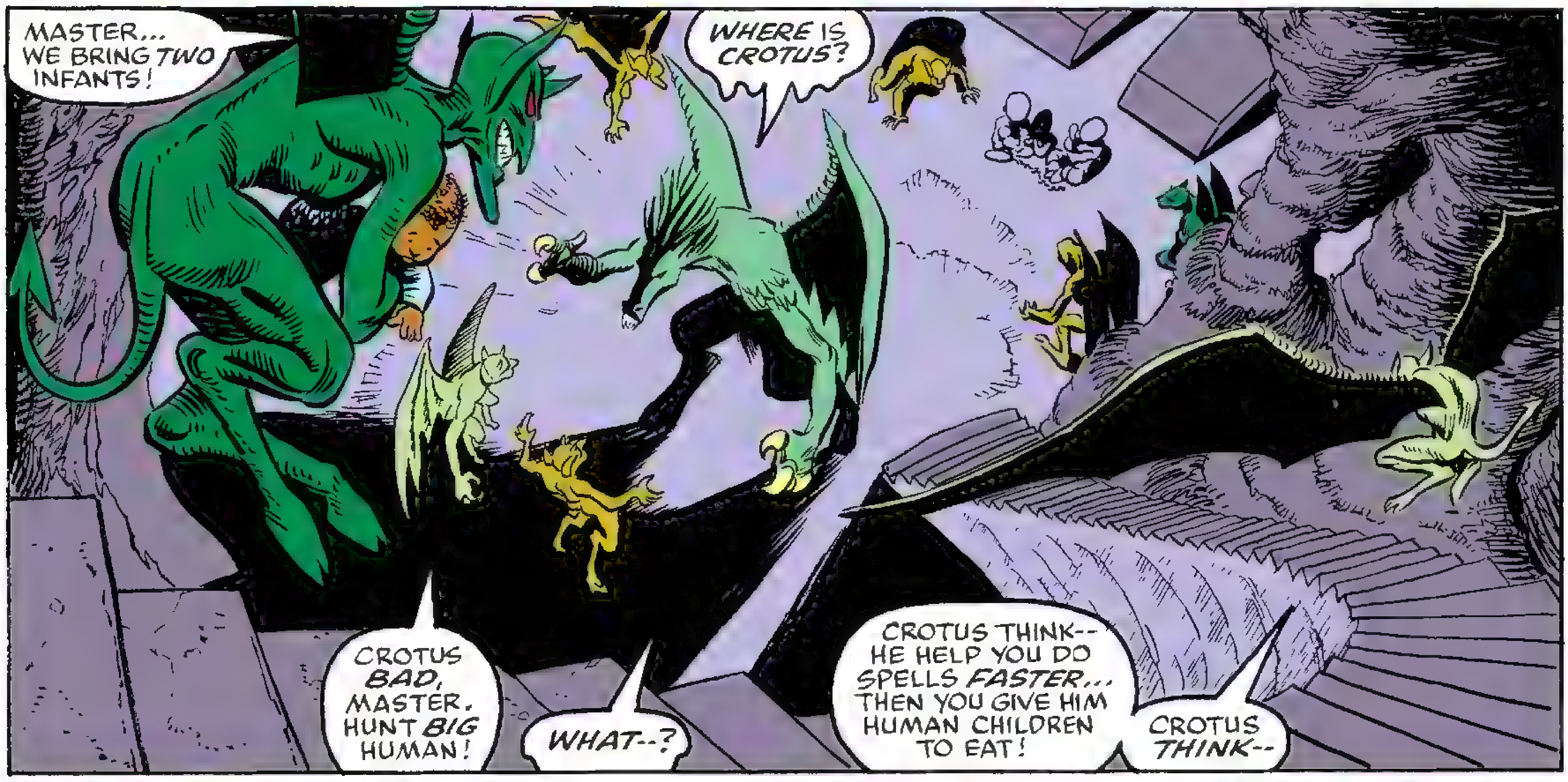

YOU HEAR?
CHILD CAN TRANSFER INFORMATION FAST... AND CHECK SPELLS!
MAWTHTER HAS LOTS OF SPELLS...AND NO TIME! THAT JUST WHAT MAWTHTER NEED.
WEEOOOWEEOOOWEE
RADSPORTUS
CROTUS! MOVE! FLY AWAY! PEOPLE COME!
HOLY COW? DID YOU SEE WHAT JUST FLEW OFF--?
FORGET THE PELICANS! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE!
HALT! COME OUT!
HURRY, GUYS!
WE MAY BE FINANCIALLY STRAIGHT WITH PEOPLE, BUT WE STILL BROKE AND ENTERED!
HOW'D THEY KNOW WE WERE IN THERE?
SILENT ALARM, MAYBE?
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THEY'D HAVE THOSE IN A HICK TOWN LIKE THIS?
THAT WONDERFUL! IF CROTUS FIND WAY TO SPEED UP MAWTHTER'S SPELLS...
...MAWTHTER GIVE CROTUS LITTLE HUMANS FOR DINNER.
YOU CRAZY, CROTUS!
WE GO! GET MORE BABIES! TELL MASTER ON YOU! THEN MASTER GIVE US CHILDREN TO EAT!
SO NOW--WHAT'LL WE CALL OURSELVES?
WHAT ABOUT MUD. WE'RE SINGLE-HANDEDLY MUDDYING MUTANTS' NAME!
DON'T BE SUCH A DOWNER, RUSTY. HEY... WHAT ABOUT X-TERMINATORS?
YEAH! X FOR THE X-FACTOR IN OUR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT MAKES US MUTANTS...
...AND 'CAUSE IT'S WHAT X-FACTOR USED TO CALL THEMSELVES!
YEAH! X-TERMINATORS--'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA SEVERELY X-TERMINATE SOME EVIL MUTANT-GOBLIN-DEMON TAIL!

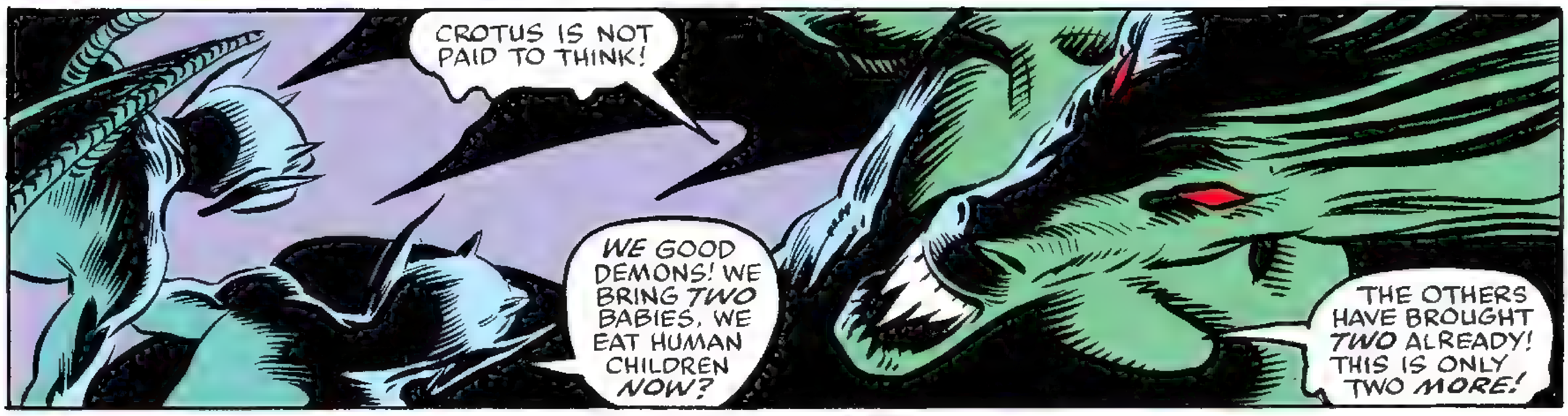

LATER...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE COULDN'T FIND X-FACTOR'S SHIP.
IT WAS OUT THERE OVER THE OCEAN THERE... SOMEWHERE.
MAYBE, BUT WE COULD HARDLY SEE THREE BLOCKS IN THAT HAZE...!
LISTEN, WE BETTER LAND AND CALL X-FACTOR'S HOT LINE...!
WITH THE ACCENT ON HOT! IT FEELS LIKE A SCENE FROM BLAZING INFERNO!
I'LL TRANSFORM THE SHIP'S MASS TO A DUMPSTER. NOT THAT A THIEF WOULD GET FAR IN THAT TRAFFIC!
HONK! BEEP-BEEP! HONK!
LISTEN TO THE HONKING!
RADIO SAID THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE SCREWED UP THROUGHOUT THE CITY.
PHEW! SMELL THE GARBAGE! IS THERE A STRIKE?
NAH. RADIO SAID THE SANITATION GUYS ARE WORKING OVERTIME!
THIS WEEK THEY'VE ALREADY COLLECTED SEVEN TIMES MORE THAN USUAL.
THEY SAID IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT GROWS OUT OF THIN AIR!
THERE'S A PHONE. HEY, RICTOR, GOT ANY QUARTERS?
I WONDER IF THE GOBLINS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?
GOBLINS? HONESTLY, TAKI, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO APPROACH THINGS FROM A SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW?
I AM. EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE!
THE GOBLINS MADE ME FEEL REAL... FUNNY, RIGHT? WELL, THIS WHOLE CITY MAKES ME FEEL FUNNY.
HELLO--?
I'M SORRY... YOUR NUMBER DID NOT GO THROUGH... CLIK... HMMMM
RATS! DUMB THING HUNG UP ON ME... AND ATE MY QUARTER. GOT ANOTHER ONE--?

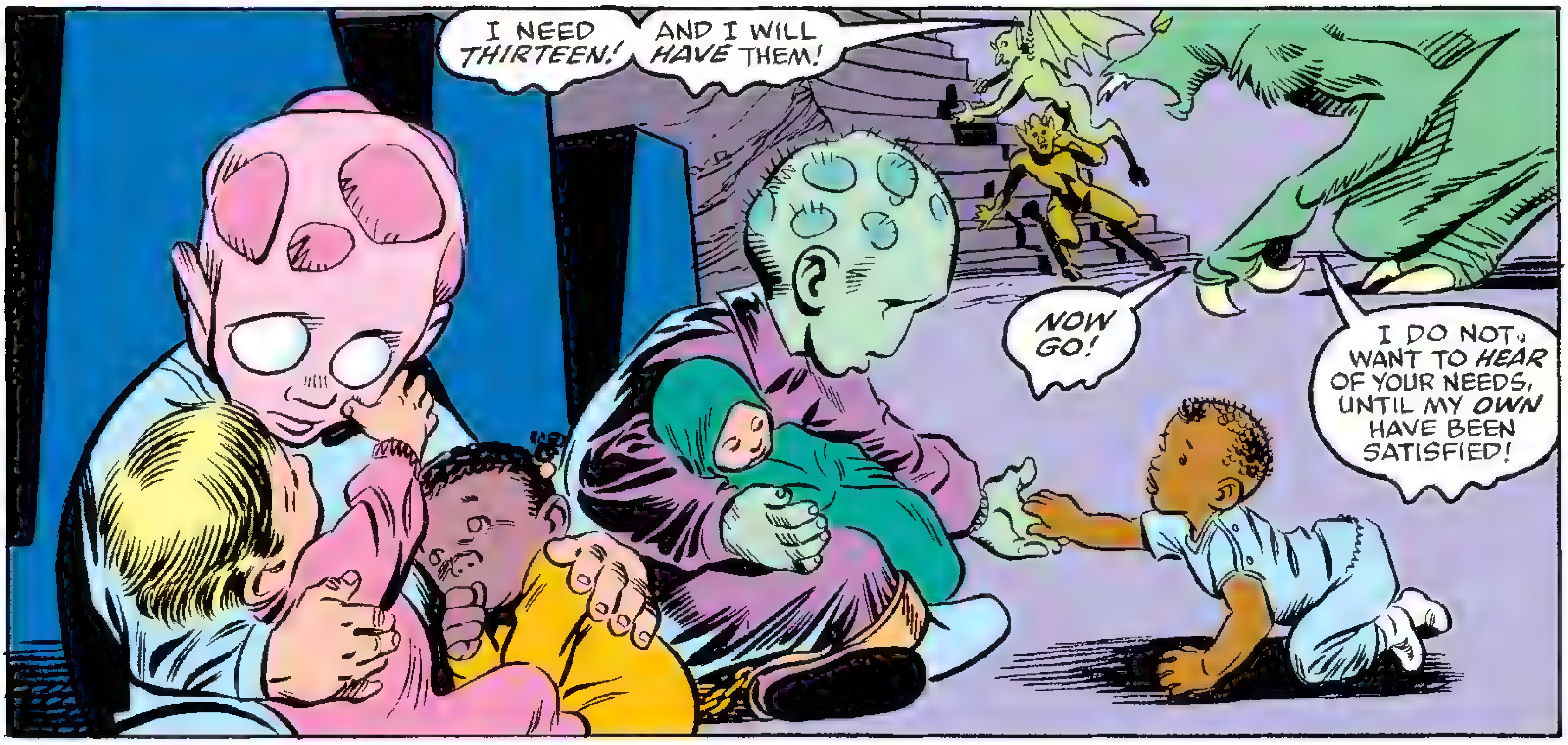

THAT NUMBER IS NOT IN SERVICE. PLEASE CHECK IN YOUR DIRECTORY ...CLIK...
BLAST! GOT ANOTHER ONE--?
IT'S THE LAST! MAYBE YOU OUGHTA TRY THE OPERATOR.
HELLO? OPERATOR--?
SHE...IT LAUGHED AT ME...AND CUT ME OFF!
RATTLE RATTLE
C'MON. GIMME BACK MY QUARTER! C'MON!
BANG!
@★!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SPEND ON THIS JUNK!
WE BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT ARTIE AND LEECH OURSELVES.
OMIGOSH!
THE PHONE! IT MADE A FACE AT ME!
WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT! TAKI IS THE FIRST TO CRACK!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, TAKI...IT'S YOUR INEXPERIENCE...AND THE WAY THE SUN BEATS DOWN ON YOUR HELMET!
I KNOW WHAT I SAW!

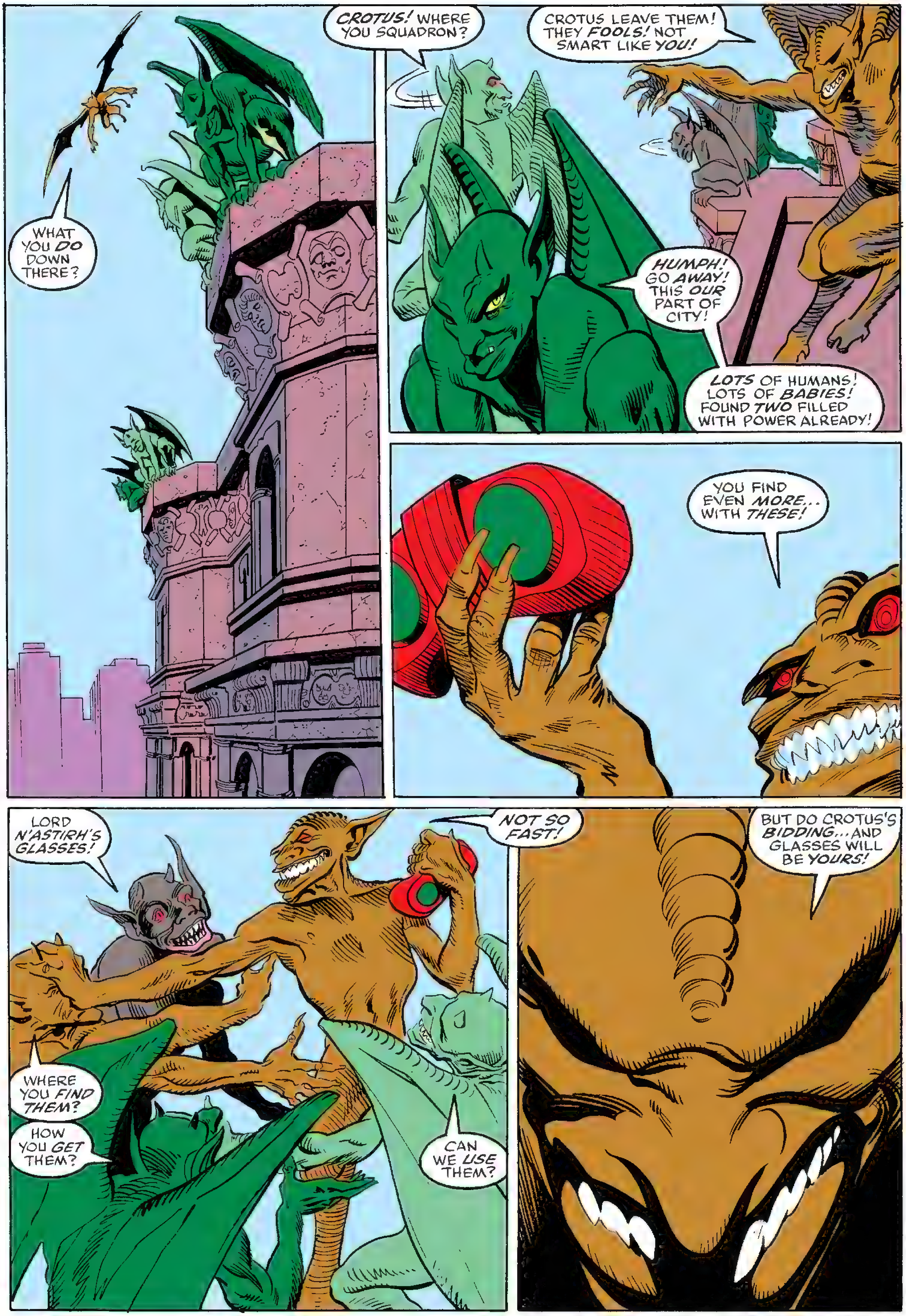

WHILE HALF AN ISLAND AWAY...
HEY, JERMAINE! WANNA PLAY LAZER TAG?
MY STUPID SISTER AN' HER CRYBABY FRIEND JUST SPLIT AN' WE GOT TWO EXTRA RIGS!
I CAN'T! I GOTTA WATCH RUSSEL...!
AW, C'MON, MAN... I'M TALKIN' LAZER TAG!
LEAVE RUSSEL UNDER THE TREE. HE'S NOT CRYIN' OR NUTHIN'!
WE'LL HELP YOU KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
YEAH, OKAY! I GUESS IT CAN'T HURT FOR JUST A MINUTE.
HEY, JERMAINE... WHAT'D YOU DO WITH RUSSEL?
HUH?
HA!HA!HA!HA!
BUMP

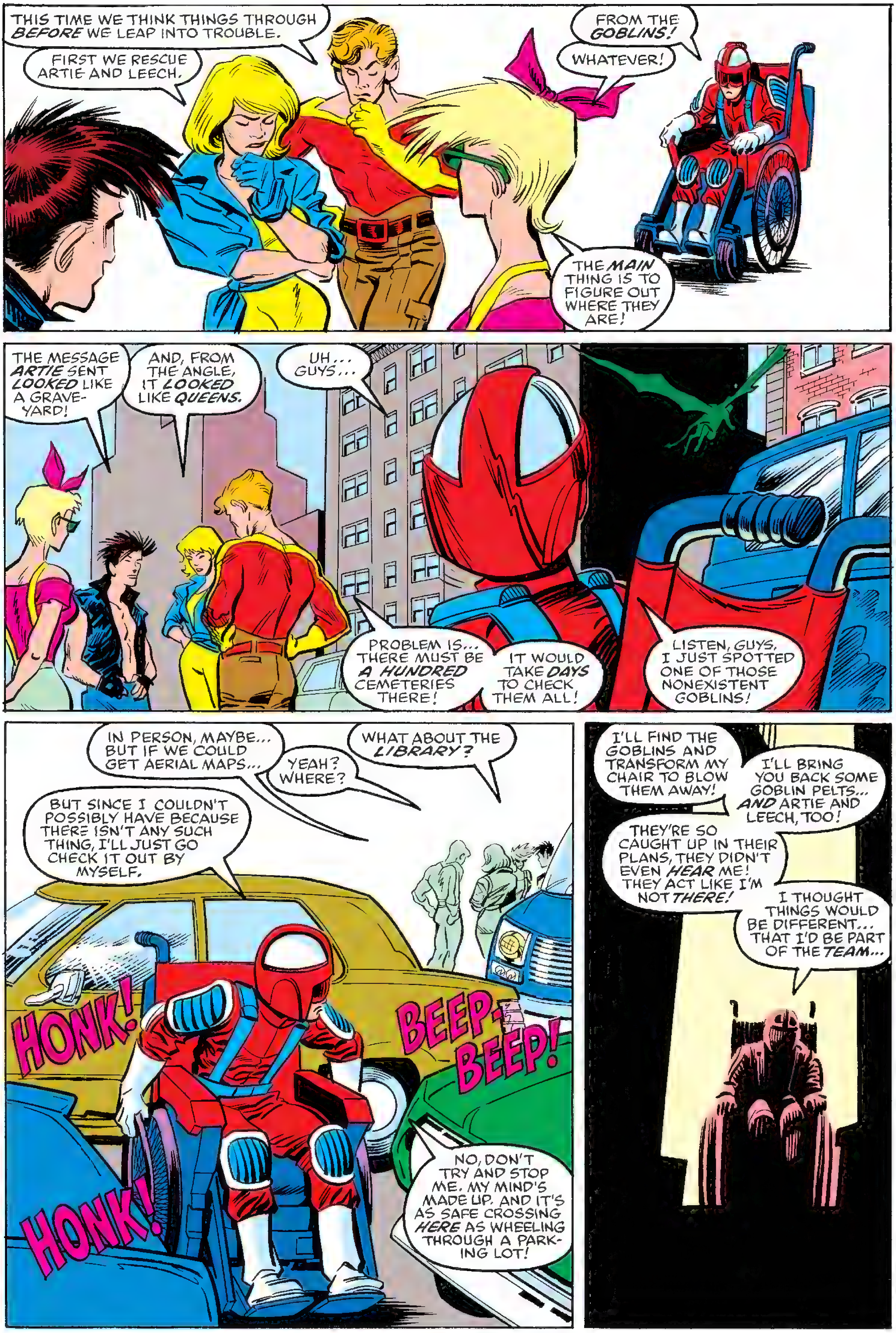

HUMANS LEAVE INFANTS ALL ALONE!
MAKE THEM *EASY PREY!*
TOO BAD *BIG BOY* NOT INFANT, TOO!

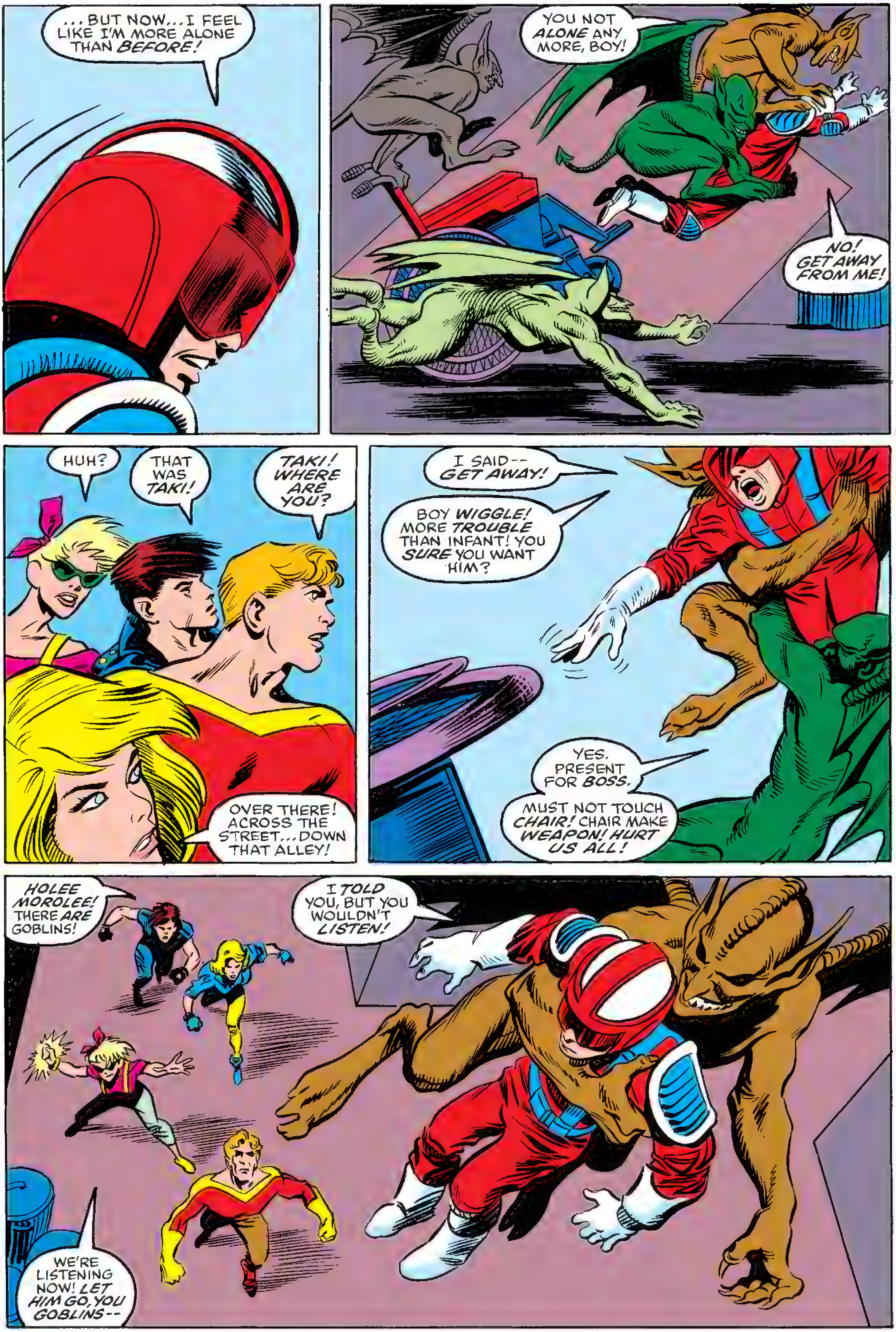

MASTER... WE BRING *TWO* INFANTS!
WHERE IS *CROTUS?*
CROTUS *BAD*, MASTER. HUNT *BIG* HUMAN!
WHAT--?
CROTUS THINK-- HE HELP YOU DO SPELLS *FASTER...* THEN YOU GIVE HIM HUMAN CHILDREN TO EAT!
CROTUS *THINK--*

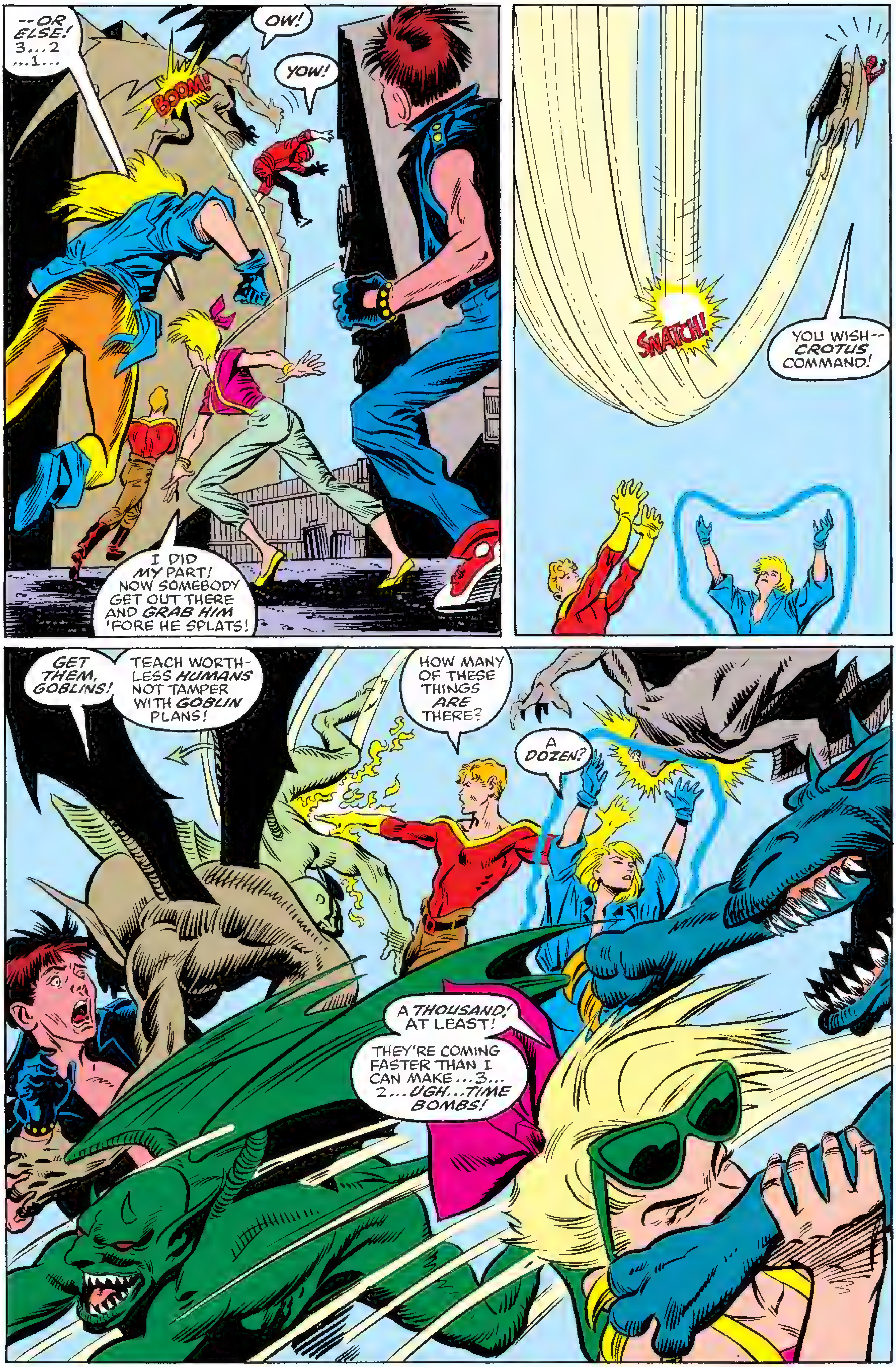

CROTUS IS NOT PAID TO THINK!
WE GOOD DEMONS! WE BRING *TWO* BABIES. WE EAT HUMAN CHILDREN *NOW?*
THE OTHERS HAVE BROUGHT *TWO* ALREADY! THIS IS ONLY TWO *MORE!*


I NEED *THIRTEEN!*
AND I WILL *HAVE* THEM!
NOW GO!
I DO NOT WANT TO *HEAR* OF YOUR NEEDS, UNTIL MY *OWN* HAVE BEEN SATISFIED!


WHAT YOU *DO* DOWN THERE?
CROTUS! WHERE YOU SQUADRON?
CROTUS LEAVE THEM! THEY *FOOLS!* NOT SMART LIKE *YOU!*
HUMPH! GO *AWAY!* THIS *OUR* PART OF CITY!
LOTS OF HUMANS! LOTS OF *BABIES!* FOUND *TWO* FILLED WITH POWER ALREADY!
YOU FIND EVEN *MORE...* WITH *THESE!*
LORD *N'ASTIRH'S GLASSES!*
NOT SO FAST!
WHERE YOU *FIND THEM?*
HOW YOU *GET* THEM?
CAN WE *USE* THEM?
BUT DO CROTUS'S *BIDDING*... AND GLASSES WILL BE *YOURS!*


THIS TIME WE THINK THINGS THROUGH *BEFORE* WE LEAP INTO TROUBLE.
FIRST WE RESCUE ARTIE AND LEECH.
FROM THE *GOBLINS!*
WHATEVER!
THE *MAIN* THING IS TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY ARE!
THE MESSAGE *ARTIE* SENT *LOOKED* LIKE A GRAVEYARD!
AND, FROM THE ANGLE, IT *LOOKED* LIKE *QUEENS.*
UH... GUYS...
PROBLEM IS... THERE MUST BE *A HUNDRED* CEMETERIES THERE!
IT WOULD TAKE *DAYS* TO CHECK THEM ALL!
LISTEN, *GUYS,* I JUST SPOTTED ONE OF THOSE NONEXISTENT GOBLINS!
IN PERSON, MAYBE... BUT IF WE COULD GET AERIAL MAPS...
YEAH? WHERE?
WHAT ABOUT THE *LIBRARY?*
BUT SINCE I COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH THING, I'LL JUST GO CHECK IT OUT BY MYSELF.
HONK!
BEEP-BEEP!
HONK!
NO, DON'T TRY AND STOP ME. MY MIND'S MADE UP. AND IT'S AS SAFE CROSSING *HERE* AS WHEELING THROUGH A PARKING LOT!
I'LL FIND THE GOBLINS AND TRANSFORM MY CHAIR TO BLOW THEM AWAY!
I'LL BRING YOU BACK SOME GOBLIN PELTS... *AND* ARTIE AND LEECH, TOO!
THEY'RE SO CAUGHT UP IN THEIR PLANS, THEY DIDN'T EVEN *HEAR* ME! THEY ACT LIKE I'M NOT *THERE!*
I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT... THAT I'D BE PART OF THE *TEAM...*


...BUT NOW...I FEEL LIKE I'M MORE ALONE THAN BEFORE!
YOU NOT ALONE ANY MORE, BOY!
NO! GET AWAY FROM ME!
HUH?
THAT WAS TAKI!
TAKI! WHERE ARE YOU?
OVER THERE! ACROSS THE STREET...DOWN THAT ALLEY!
I SAID-- GET AWAY!
BOY WIGGLE! MORE TROUBLE THAN INFANT! YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM?
YES. PRESENT FOR BOSS.
MUST NOT TOUCH CHAIR! CHAIR MAKE WEAPON! HURT US ALL!
HOLEE MOROLEE! THERE ARE GOBLINS!
I TOLD YOU, BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN!
WE'RE LISTENING NOW! LET HIM GO, YOU GOBLINS--


--OR ELSE! 3...2 ...1...
BOOM!
OW!
YOW!
I DID MY PART! NOW SOMEBODY GET OUT THERE AND GRAB HIM 'FORE HE SPLATS!
SNATCH!
YOU WISH-- CROTUS COMMAND!
GET THEM, GOBLINS!
TEACH WORTHLESS HUMANS NOT TAMPER WITH GOBLIN PLANS!
HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS ARE THERE?
A DOZEN?
A THOUSAND! AT LEAST!
THEY'RE COMING FASTER THAN I CAN MAKE...3... 2...UGH...TIME BOMBS!

THEN GET OVER HERE!
THE LAST THING WE NEED NOW IS TO LOSE YOU, TOO!
RICTOR--COME ON IN WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE!
NO WAY I'M HIDING BEHIND YOUR DEFLECTOR SHIELD!
KEEP IT UP THOUGH! 'CAUSE I'M GETTING RID OF THESE THINGS--
--ONCE AN' FOR ALL!
RUMMMMBLE
SHRA-KA-BOOM!
THERE WERE GOBLINS!
AND THEY HAVE TAKI! AND NONE OF US CAN FLY!
WE JUST MADE FUN OF HIM! WHY DIDN'T WE BELIEVE WHAT HE SAID?
WELL, WE BELIEVE HIM, NOW! AND NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS WE HAVE TO FACE...

"...WE'RE GOING TO GET HIM BACK!"
MAWTHTER ...CROTUS BRING YOU PRESENT!
I DO NOT WANT PRESENTS, CROTUS... BUT OBEDIENCE! THIRTEEN INFANTS OF POWER AND PURITY...
...WHO WILL ACT AS FOCUSES FOR MY POWER... AND FORCE OPEN LIMBO'S GATES!
BY MY EFFORTS, THE WALL THAT SEPARATES THIS DIMENSION FROM LIMBO GROWS THIN.
BUT I AM HARD PRESSED TO COMPLETE AND REINFORCE ALL SPELLS REQUIRED, IN THE SHORT TIME THAT IS LEFT TO US!
BUT, MAWTHTER-- CROTUS BRING YOU GIFT... NOT OF TIME, BUT OF SPEED.
THIS BOY GOT SPECIAL SORCERY OF THIS DIMENSION...
HE GOT COMPUTER ...TELL HIM, BOY... TELL HIM WHAT COMPUTER DO--!
YOU PROGRAM IT... AND IT PROCESSES INFORMATION... REALLY QUICKLY. BUT--
IT EVEN GOT CHECKER FOR CHECKING SPELLS, MAWTHTER! CROTUS GIVE HIM TO YOU, FREELY.
BUT, MAWTHTER, CROTUS HUNGRY. CROTUS NEED RENEWAL, MAWTHTER... WILL YOU NOT FEED CROTUS MUTANT CHILDREN?
NEXT ISSUE · GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

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X-TERMINATORS™
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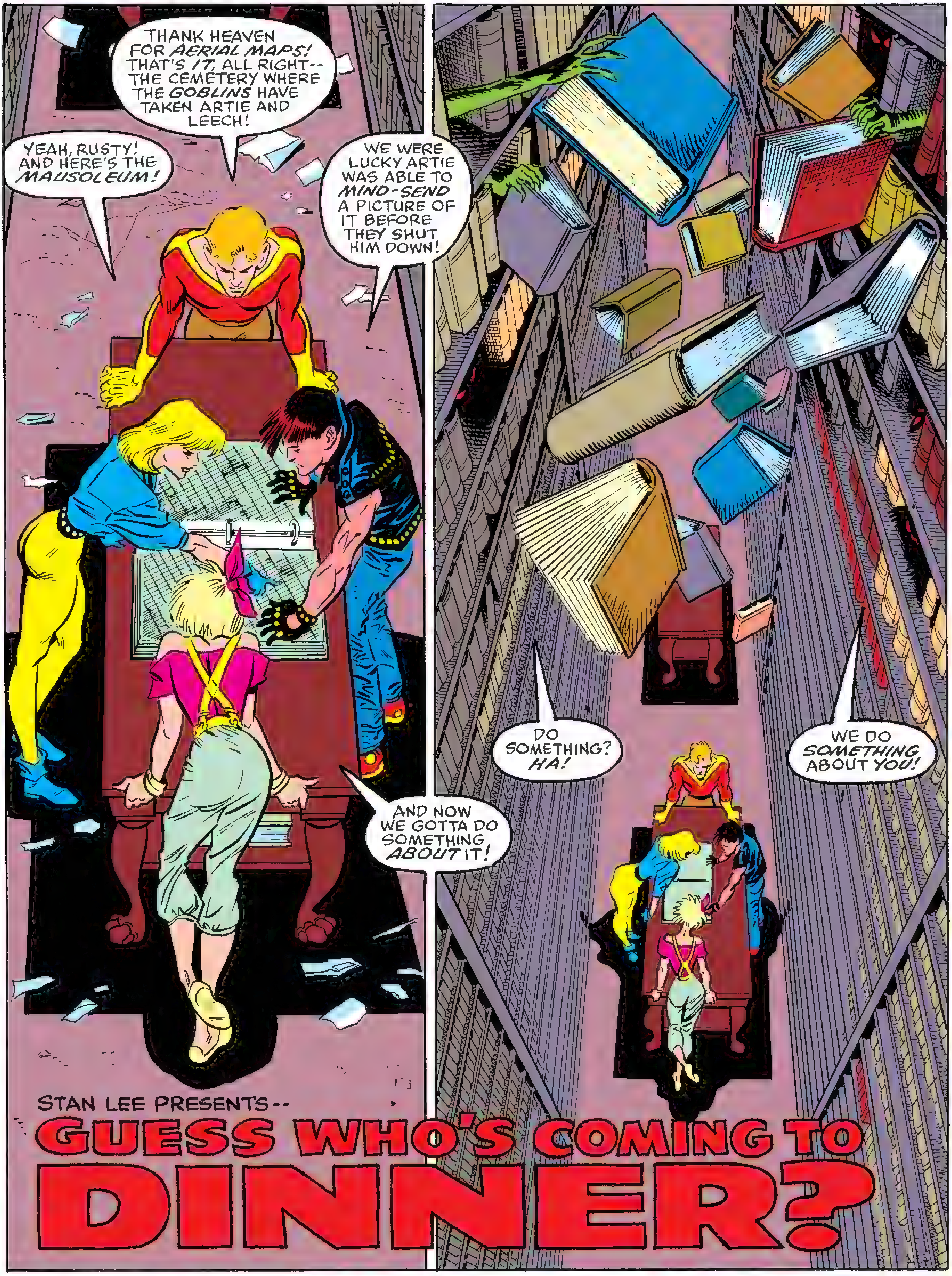
CONTINUES
BOGDANOVE AND MILGROM

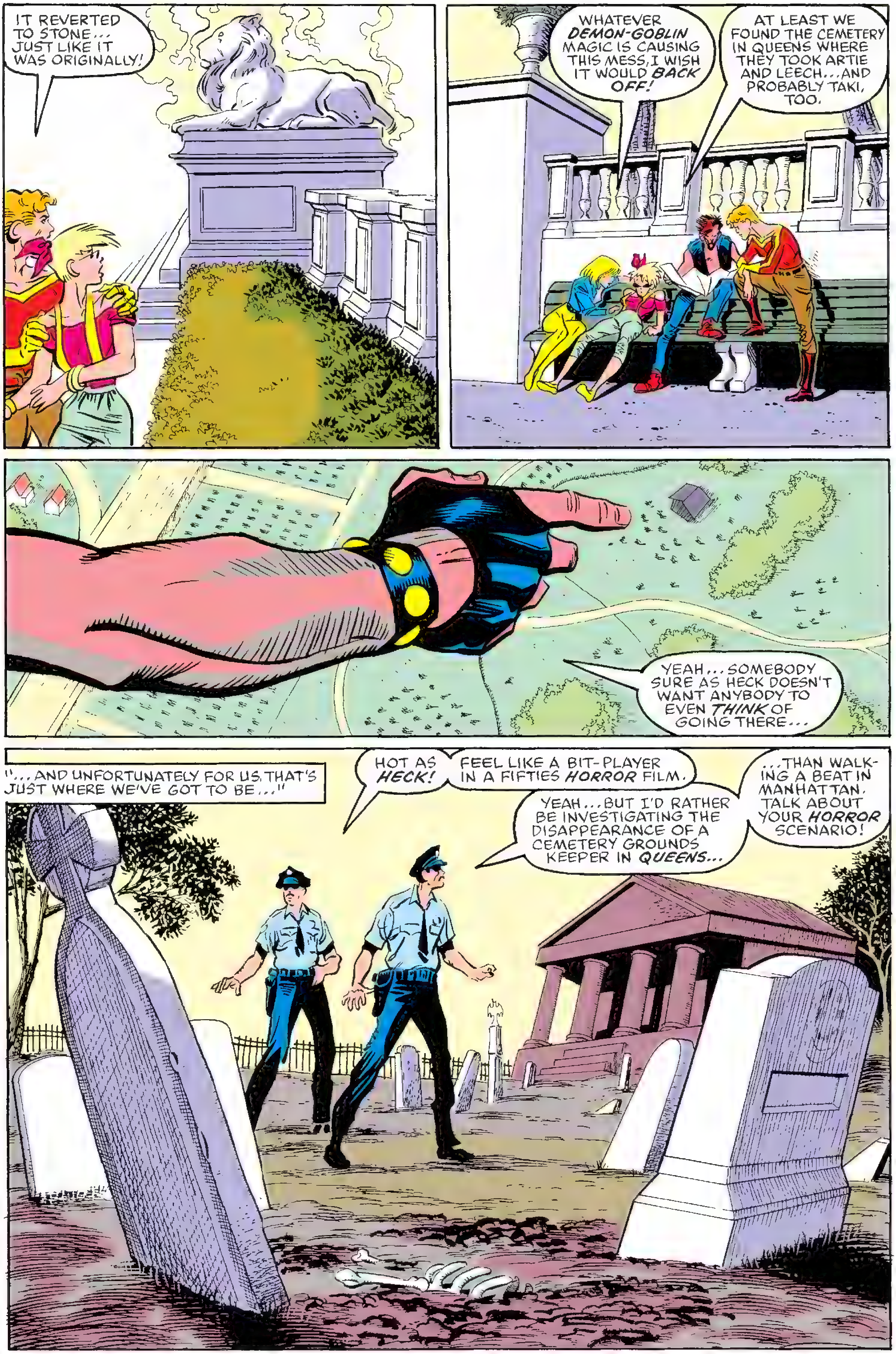
THE **NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**'S MAIN BRANCH IS ON 42ND STREET, SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN, A COUPLE OF BLOCKS FROM **TIMES SQUARE**. ANYTHING A PERSON NEEDS TO KNOW CAN BE FOUND OUT WITHIN ITS FOUR WALLS... DOWN ONE OF ITS WINDING, BOOK-FILLED CORRIDORS... EVEN AT A TIME WHEN THE CITY, ITSELF SEEMS TO BE GOING **MAD**...

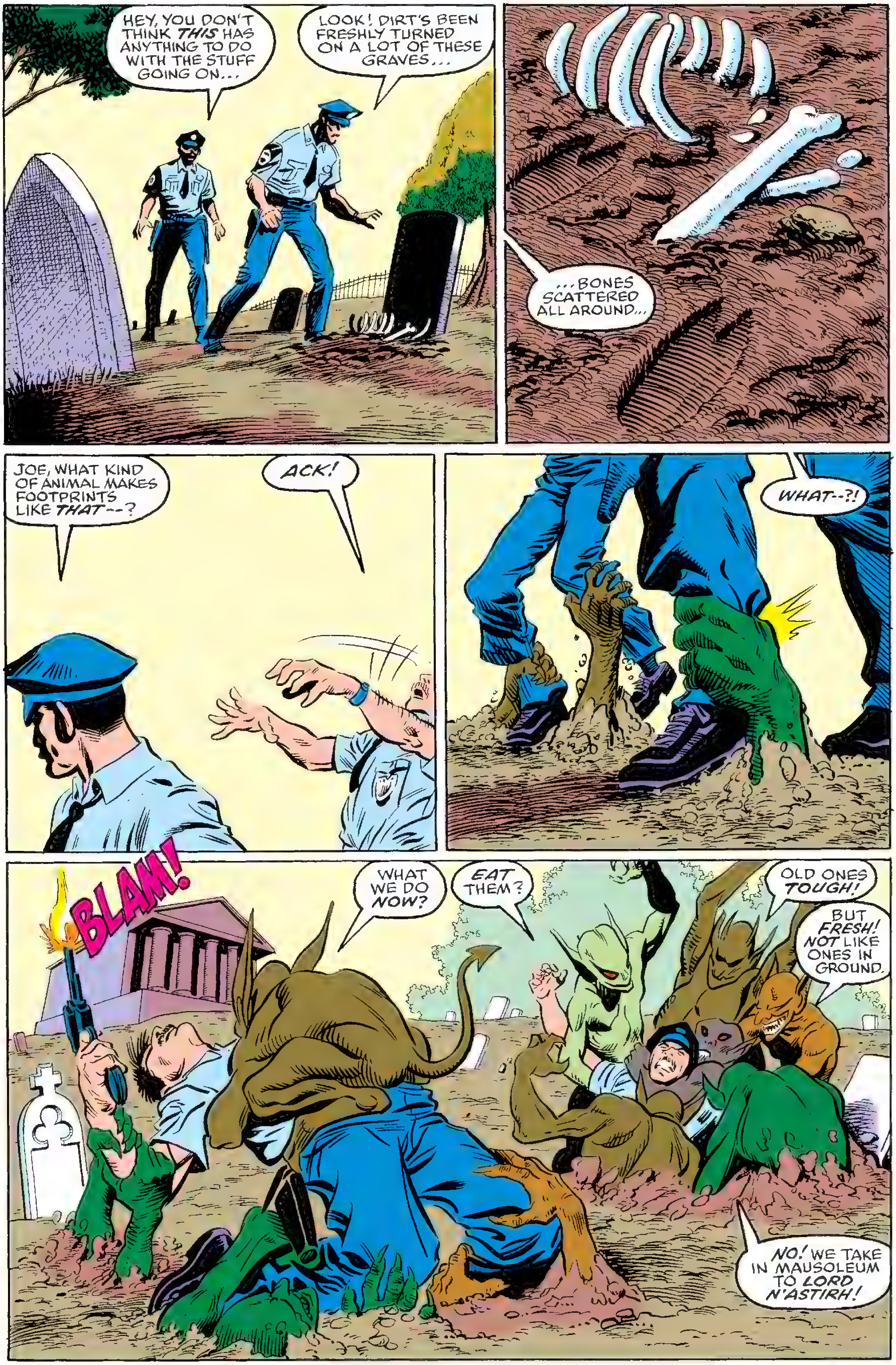

THANK HEAVEN FOR *AERIAL MAPS!* THAT'S *IT*, ALL RIGHT-- THE CEMETERY WHERE THE *GOBLINS* HAVE TAKEN ARTIE AND LEECH!
YEAH, RUSTY! AND HERE'S THE *MAUSOLEUM!*
WE WERE LUCKY ARTIE WAS ABLE TO *MIND-SEND* A PICTURE OF IT BEFORE THEY SHUT HIM DOWN!
AND NOW WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING *ABOUT* IT!
DO SOMETHING? *HA!*
WE DO *SOMETHING* ABOUT *YOU!*
STAN LEE PRESENTS--
GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

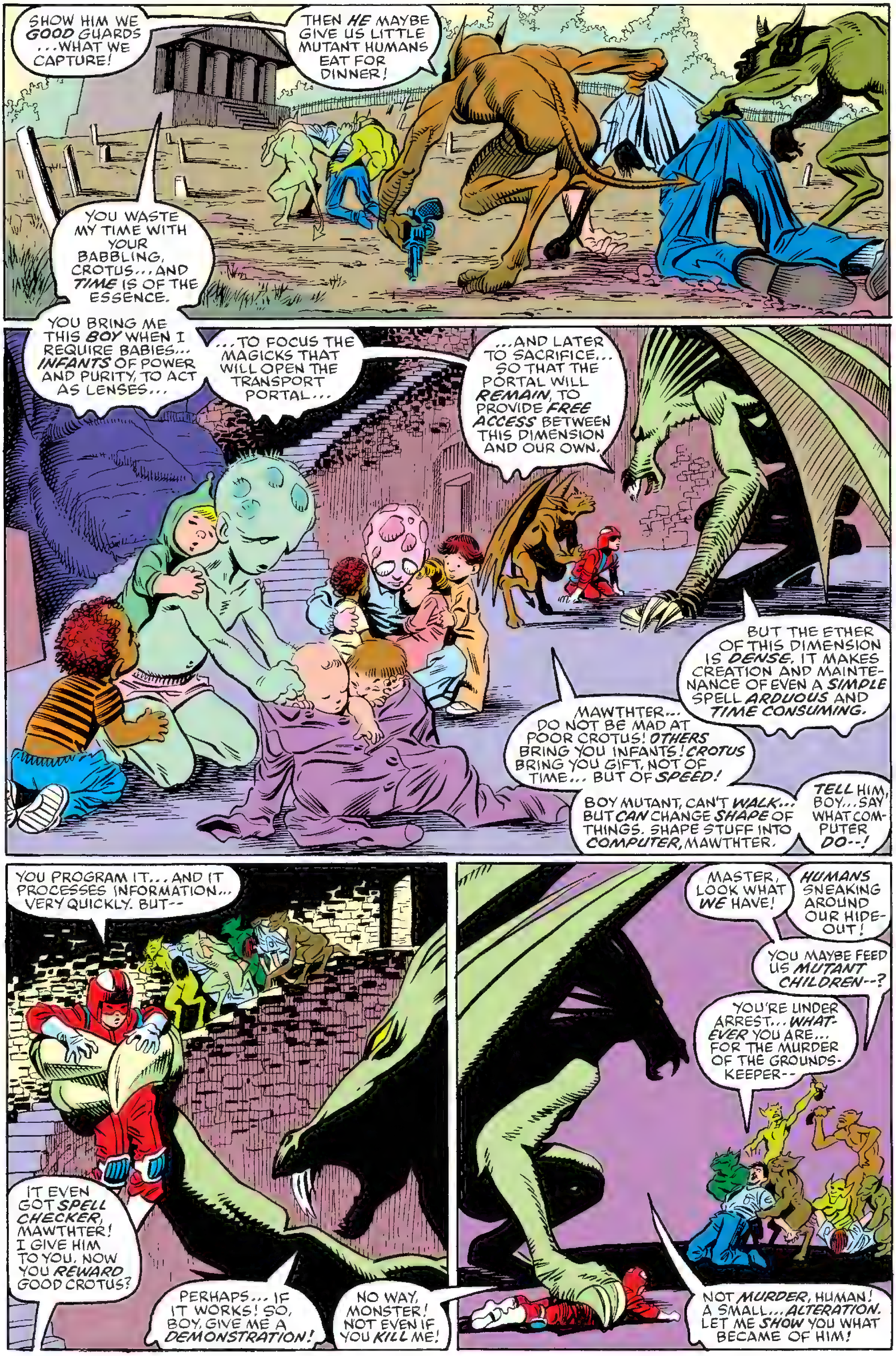
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · JON BOGDANOVE PENCILER · AL MILGROM INKER · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · JOHN WELLINGTON COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

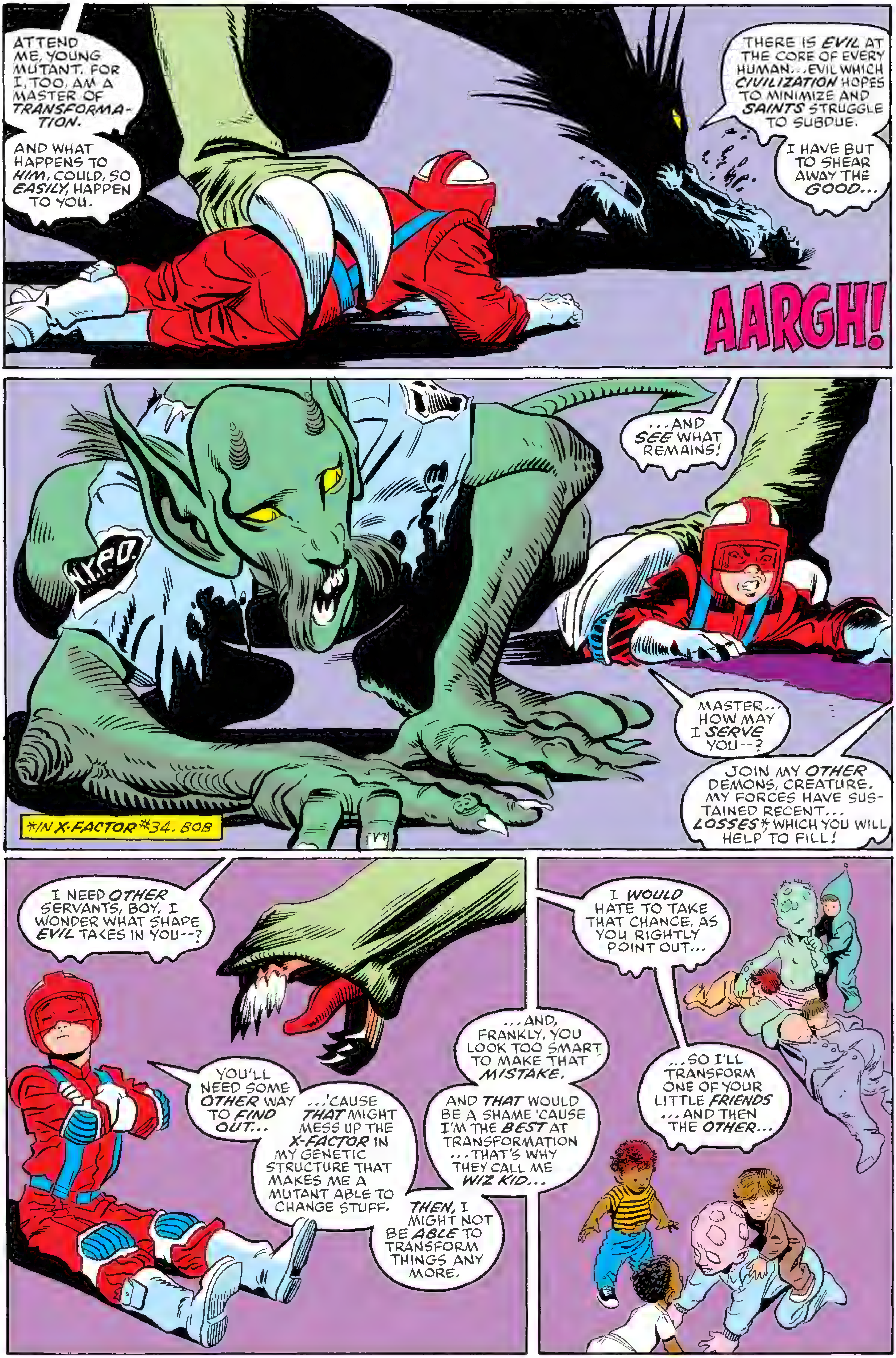
THE BOOKS ARE ATTACKING US! RUN!
WHUMP!
THUNK!
THUD!
RUSTY, CUT IT OUT! YOU CAN'T USE YOUR FIRE POWER HERE! THE BUILDING'S FILLED WITH PAPER.
WE'VE GOTTA DO-OWW!-SOMETHING!
NOW I KNOW WHY I ALWAYS HATED GOING TO THE LIBRARY!
YOU WOULD!
LOOK, BOOM-BOOM, IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT. NORMAL BOOKS DON'T BEHAVE THIS WAY. THEY'RE POSSESSED, OR SOMETHING!
JUST LIKE THE REST OF THIS CITY!
I'VE THROWN UP A DEFLECTOR SHIELD! C'MON, RICTOR! GET INSIDE WHERE IT'S SAFE!
YEAH! RIGHT! I'M COMING! JUST LET ME GET THE MAP!
WHAT THE--!?
YOW!
UGH! GROSS! LET HIM GO, YOU--!
3... 2... 1...
BOOM!
THANKS, BOOM-BOOM! THAT TIME BOMB DID THE TRICK!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! LOOK! EVERY BOOK IN THE LIBRARY'S AFTER US!
EEEEEE!
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF GHOSTBUSTERS!
RUN!

SKID'S FORCE FIELD IS BURIED IN BOOKS...AND WE'RE BURIED UNDER IT!
NO PROBLEM... I'LL SHAKE US FREE AND CLEAR!
RRUMBLE!
HOLY COW! WHAT A MESS!
SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
FOR THE LIBRARY'S SAKE, AND OUR OWN, WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M GONNA LOWER MY FORCE-FIELD. GET READY... SET--
"--RUN!"
SURE IS HOT OUT HERE!
NOT AS HOT AS THOSE THINGS... WHATEVER THEY WERE ...WERE MAKING IT FOR US IN THERE!
YIKES!
WHROOM!
YEELP--


IT REVERTED TO STONE... JUST LIKE IT WAS ORIGINALLY!
WHATEVER *DEMON-GOBLIN* MAGIC IS CAUSING THIS MESS, I WISH IT WOULD *BACK OFF!*
AT LEAST WE FOUND THE CEMETERY IN QUEENS WHERE THEY TOOK ARTIE AND LEECH... AND PROBABLY TAKI, TOO.
YEAH... SOMEBODY SURE AS HECK DOESN'T WANT ANYBODY TO EVEN *THINK* OF GOING THERE...
"...AND UNFORTUNATELY FOR US, THAT'S JUST WHERE WE'VE GOT TO BE..."
HOT AS *HECK!*
FEEL LIKE A BIT-PLAYER IN A FIFTIES *HORROR* FILM.
YEAH... BUT I'D RATHER BE INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A CEMETERY GROUNDS KEEPER IN *QUEENS*...
...THAN WALKING A BEAT IN MANHATTAN. TALK ABOUT YOUR *HORROR* SCENARIO!


HEY, YOU DON'T THINK *THIS* HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE STUFF GOING ON...
LOOK! DIRT'S BEEN FRESHLY TURNED ON A LOT OF THESE GRAVES...
...BONES SCATTERED ALL AROUND...
JOE, WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL MAKES FOOTPRINTS LIKE *THAT*--?
ACK!
WHAT--?!
BLAM!
WHAT WE DO *NOW?*
EAT THEM?
OLD ONES *TOUGH!*
BUT *FRESH!* *NOT* LIKE ONES IN GROUND.
NO! WE TAKE IN MAUSOLEUM TO *LORD N'ASTIRH!*

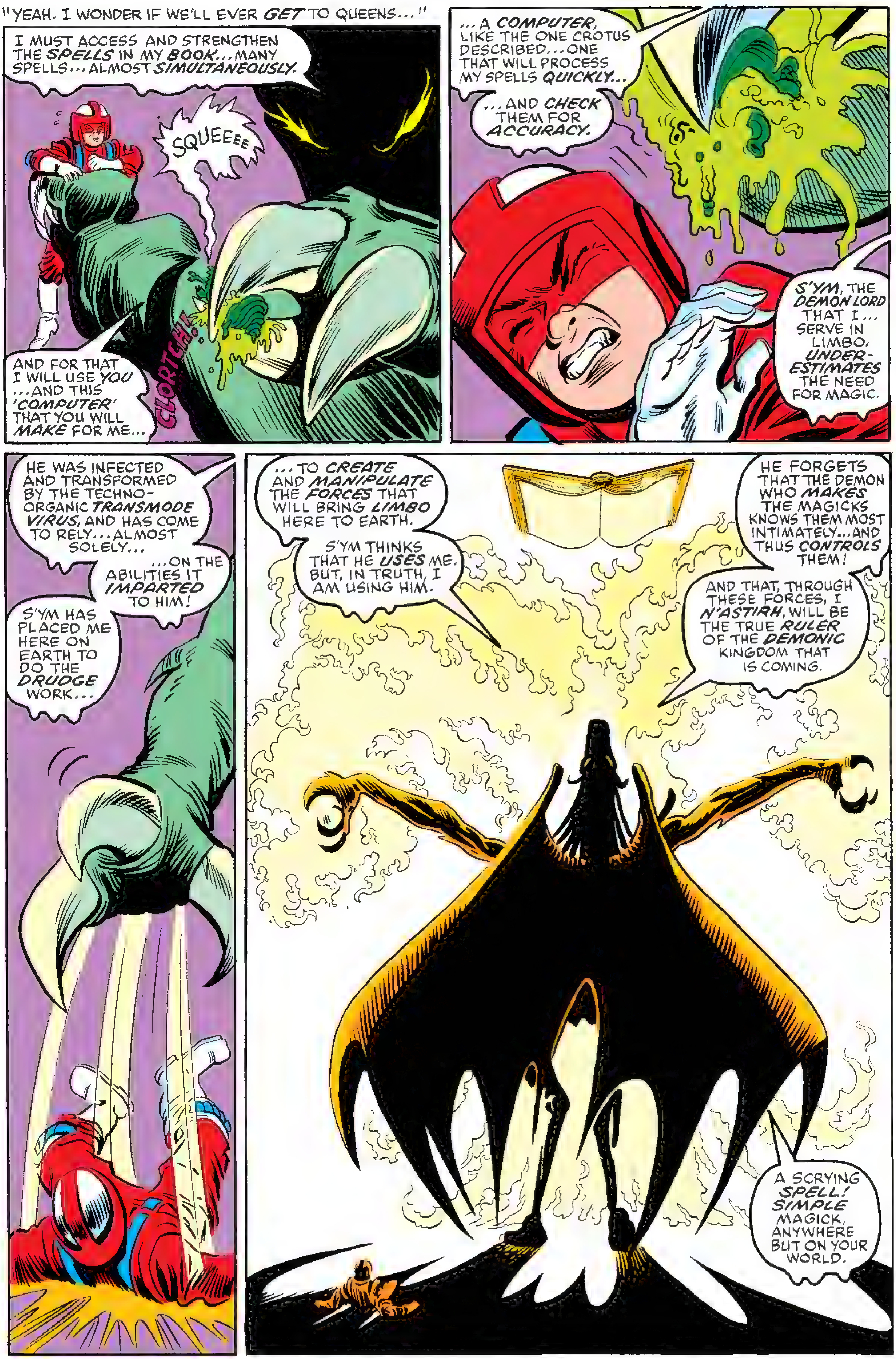

SHOW HIM WE GOOD GUARDS ...WHAT WE CAPTURE!
THEN HE MAYBE GIVE US LITTLE MUTANT HUMANS EAT FOR DINNER!
YOU WASTE MY TIME WITH YOUR BABBLING, CROTUS... AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.
YOU BRING ME THIS BOY WHEN I REQUIRE BABIES... INFANTS OF POWER AND PURITY, TO ACT AS LENSES...
...TO FOCUS THE MAGICKS THAT WILL OPEN THE TRANSPORT PORTAL...
...AND LATER TO SACRIFICE... SO THAT THE PORTAL WILL REMAIN, TO PROVIDE FREE ACCESS BETWEEN THIS DIMENSION AND OUR OWN.
BUT THE ETHER OF THIS DIMENSION IS DENSE. IT MAKES CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EVEN A SIMPLE SPELL ARDUOUS AND TIME CONSUMING.
MAWTHTER... DO NOT BE MAD AT POOR CROTUS! OTHERS BRING YOU INFANTS! CROTUS BRING YOU GIFT, NOT OF TIME... BUT OF SPEED!
BOY MUTANT, CAN'T WALK... BUT CAN CHANGE SHAPE OF THINGS. SHAPE STUFF INTO COMPUTER, MAWTHTER.
TELL HIM, BOY... SAY WHAT COMPUTER DO--!
YOU PROGRAM IT... AND IT PROCESSES INFORMATION... VERY QUICKLY. BUT--
IT EVEN GOT SPELL CHECKER, MAWTHTER! I GIVE HIM TO YOU. NOW YOU REWARD GOOD CROTUS?
PERHAPS... IF IT WORKS! SO, BOY, GIVE ME A DEMONSTRATION!
NO WAY, MONSTER! NOT EVEN IF YOU KILL ME!
MASTER, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE!
HUMANS SNEAKING AROUND OUR HIDEOUT!
YOU MAYBE FEED US MUTANT CHILDREN--?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST... WHATEVER YOU ARE... FOR THE MURDER OF THE GROUNDSKEEPER--
NOT MURDER, HUMAN! A SMALL... ALTERATION. LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT BECAME OF HIM!


ATTEND ME, YOUNG MUTANT. FOR I, TOO, AM A MASTER OF TRANSFORMATION.
AND WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM, COULD, SO EASILY, HAPPEN TO YOU.
THERE IS EVIL AT THE CORE OF EVERY HUMAN... EVIL WHICH CIVILIZATION HOPES TO MINIMIZE AND SAINTS STRUGGLE TO SUBDUE.
I HAVE BUT TO SHEAR AWAY THE GOOD...
AARGH!
...AND SEE WHAT REMAINS!
N.Y.P.D.
MASTER... HOW MAY I SERVE YOU--?
JOIN MY OTHER DEMONS, CREATURE. MY FORCES HAVE SUSTAINED RECENT... LOSSES*, WHICH YOU WILL HELP TO FILL!
*IN X-FACTOR #34. BOB
I NEED OTHER SERVANTS, BOY. I WONDER WHAT SHAPE EVIL TAKES IN YOU--?
YOU'LL NEED SOME OTHER WAY TO FIND OUT...
...'CAUSE THAT MIGHT MESS UP THE X-FACTOR IN MY GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT MAKES ME A MUTANT ABLE TO CHANGE STUFF.
THEN, I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TRANSFORM THINGS ANY MORE.
...AND, FRANKLY, YOU LOOK TOO SMART TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE.
AND THAT WOULD BE A SHAME 'CAUSE I'M THE BEST AT TRANSFORMATION ...THAT'S WHY THEY CALL ME WIZ KID...
I WOULD HATE TO TAKE THAT CHANCE, AS YOU RIGHTLY POINT OUT...
...SO I'LL TRANSFORM ONE OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS ...AND THEN THE OTHER...

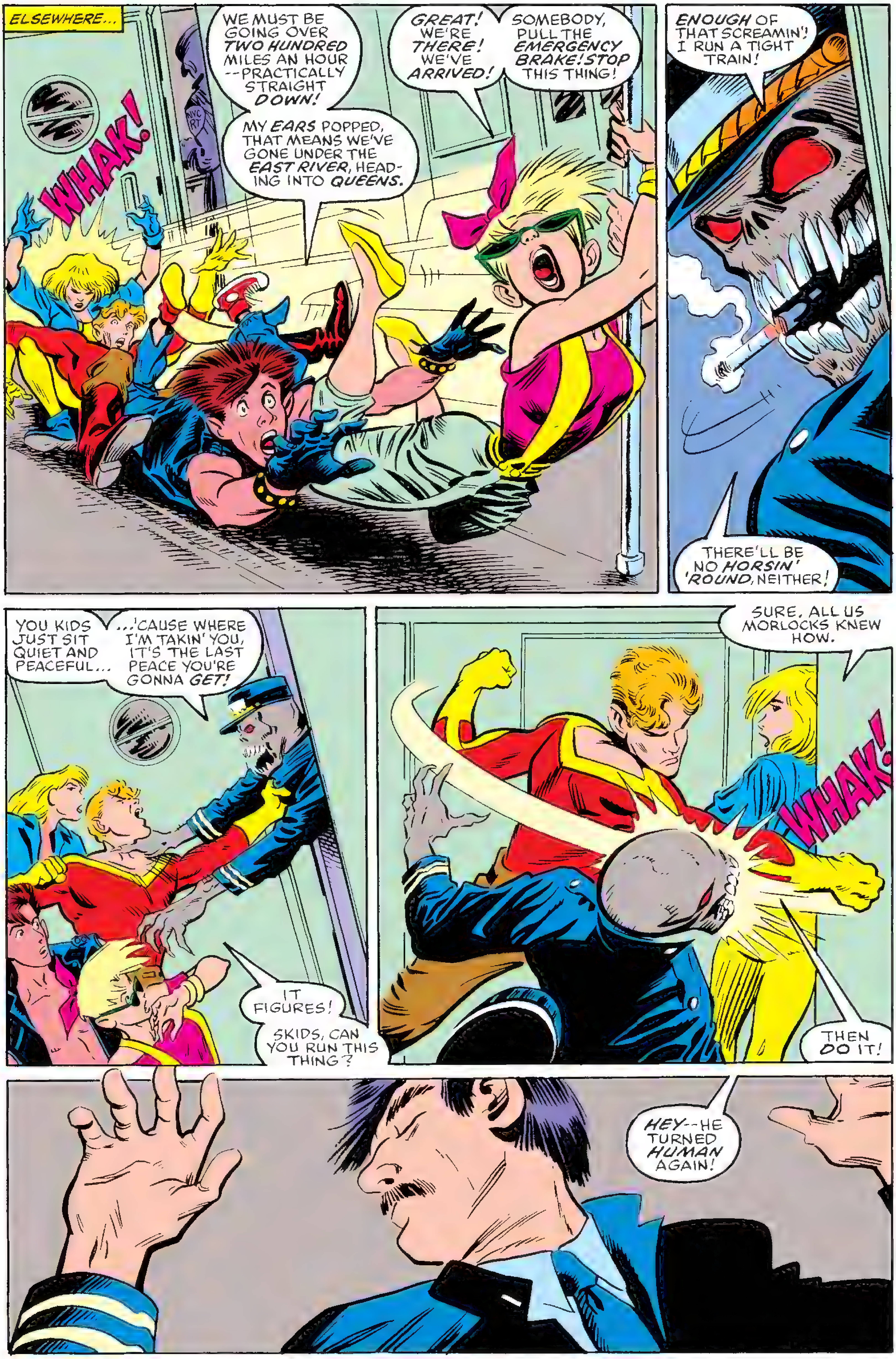
...THEN OTHER CAPTURED HUMANS... UNTIL YOU DO MY BIDDING.
MAWTHTER, NO! YOU PROMISE! FEED GREEN AND PINK CHILDS TO DEMON WHO BRING WAY TO SPEED UP SPELLS!
NO! THEY OUR REWARD!
AND, YOU, BOY... WHAT DO YOU SAY? WILL YOU TRY TO SAVE THEM--?
I SAY TRY... BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU CLAIM! AND IF NOT...
ALL RIGHT, DEMON, YOU WIN. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO...
...ONLY TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER... I'LL NEED SOMETHING TECHNOLOGICAL IN ORIGIN.
NOT MUCH AROUND HERE LIKE THAT, THOUGH ...HEY, OVER THERE! WHAT ABOUT THOSE GUNS...?
...YEAH, BOTH OF 'EM, YOU STUPID MONSTER...
SEE... I TAKE THE TECHNOLOGICAL IMPLEMENT IN MY HANDS...
...AND THINK ABOUT THE DESIGN I WANT TO IMPRINT ...AND IT RE-FORMS... LIKE--
--THIS!
IT SHOOTS LASERS, N'ASTIRH! AND I'D BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF IN A SECOND, JUST FOR FUN!
SO PUT ME DOWN! ARTIE AND LEECH AND THOSE BABIES AND ME... WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
HA! HA! HA! TECHNOLOGY!
I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY!

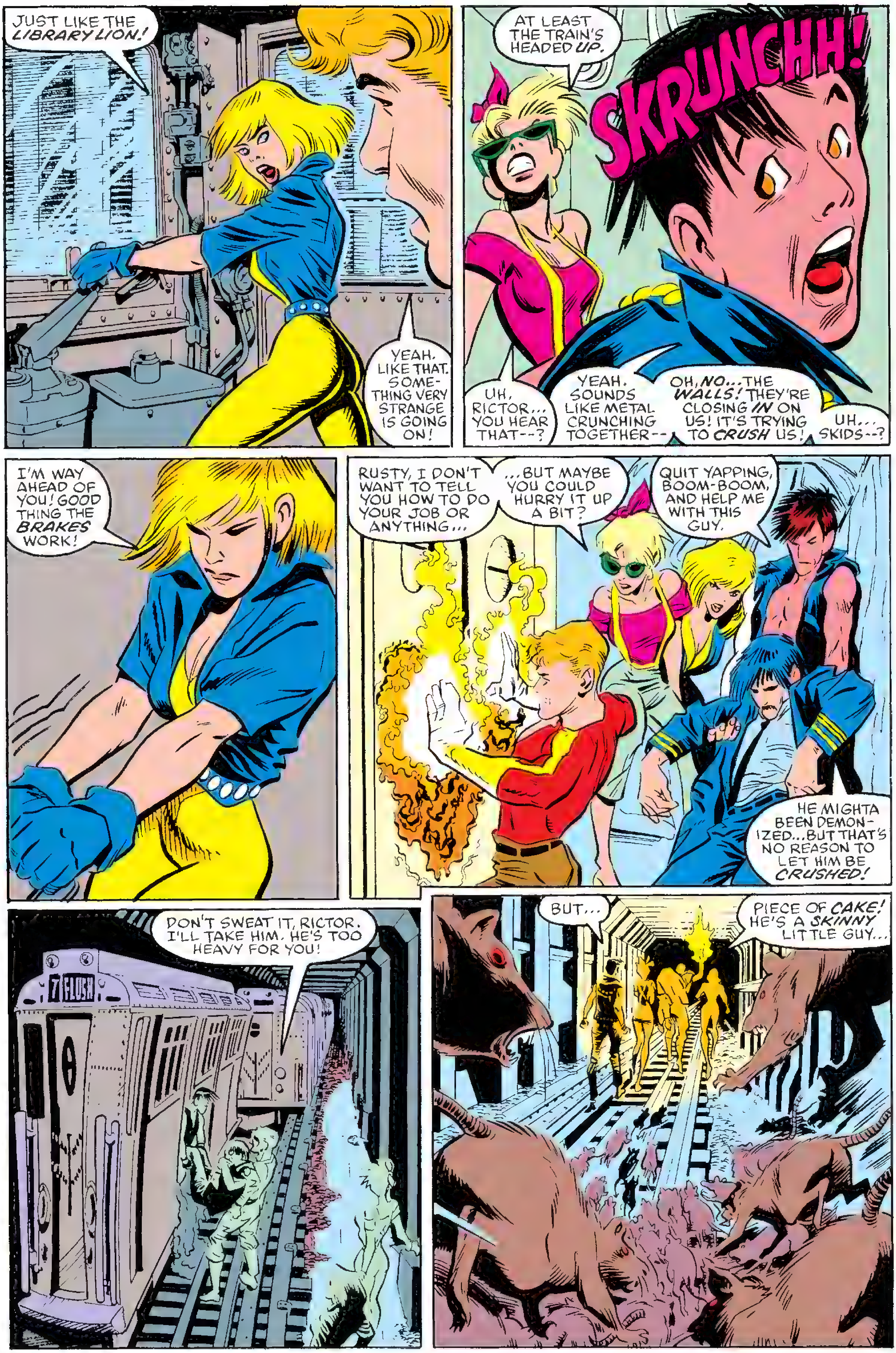
YARGH!
rkkkk-k-k-k-
SNAP!
"IN THIS SAME FASHION, I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMING THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN, BUT THE WORK HAS BEEN SLOW, PAINSTAKING AND EXHAUSTING. NOW, *YOU* ARE GOING TO HELP ME SPEED IT UP..."
THE *SUBWAYS* USED TO BE THE FASTEST, MOST RELIABLE WAY TO GET ANYWHERE...
...IF NOT NECESSARILY THE *PLEASANTEST*...
...BUT THINGS AREN'T *RIGHT* HERE! AND THE LATER IN THE DAY IT *GETS*, THE *WRONGER* THINGS SEEM!
WHAT ABOUT *TOKENS?*
I WOULDN'T BUY *ANYTHING* FROM *THAT* TOKEN DUDE ...EVEN IF I *HAD* THE MONEY.
I HEAR A *TRAIN.* WHEN IT GETS INTO THE STATION, *RUN, LEAP* THE TURNSTILES, AND *DIVE* FOR THE TRAIN'S OPEN DOORS.
I'LL BET *THE AVENGERS* NEVER HAVE THIS PROBLEM...!
GRAB THE DOOR! *HOLD* IT!
YYARGH!
GROSS!
LET GO OF HIM, YOU...YOU *THING!*
3... 2... 1...
BOOM!
QUIT PLAYING AROUND, BOOM-BOOM, AND COME *ON!*

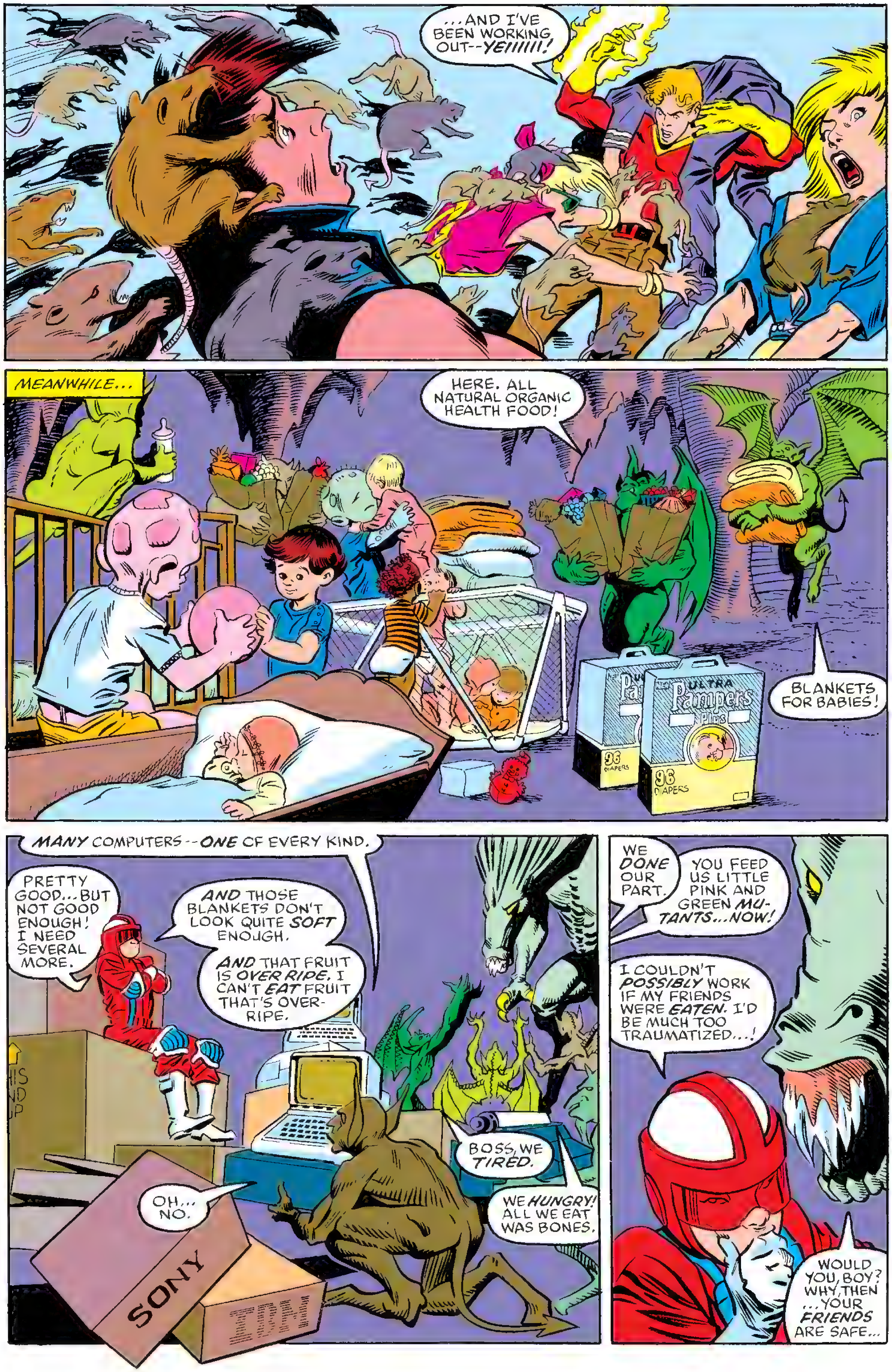
BUT I *WASN'T*--! DIDN'T YOU *SEE*--? OH-- JUST HOLD THE *DOOR!*
HOLY--! IT JUST GREW *TEETH!*
HURRY! OR I WON'T HAVE HANDS TO HOLD IT OPEN *WITH!*
YOWCH! IT'S TRYING TO CUT OFF MY *FINGERS!*
MAYBE A *TIME BOMB*--?
NO! IT'D TAKE MY HANDS WITH THE DOOR!
OPEN UP, YOU MONSTER! *OPEN*... OR I'LL SHAKE YOU INTO SHARDS OF TWISTED METAL!
RUMBBLE!
MAYBE THE SUBWAY *ISN'T* SUCH A GREAT IDEA, AFTER ALL.
THERE *SHOULD* BE A BIG *LUNCH HOUR* CROWD.
THERE'S *NOT.* THERE'S *NOBODY!*
WHAM! SLAM! WHAM!
THE *WINDOWS* AND *DOORS*... JUST ... *SLAMMED SHUT!* WE'RE *TRAPPED!*
YIKES!
GET YOUR FEET OUT OF MY FACE, BOOM-BOOM!
WE MUST BE TRAVELING AT A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR!
JUST WHAT I WAS *AFRAID* OF. THE *SUBWAY'S* HAUNTED, TOO!

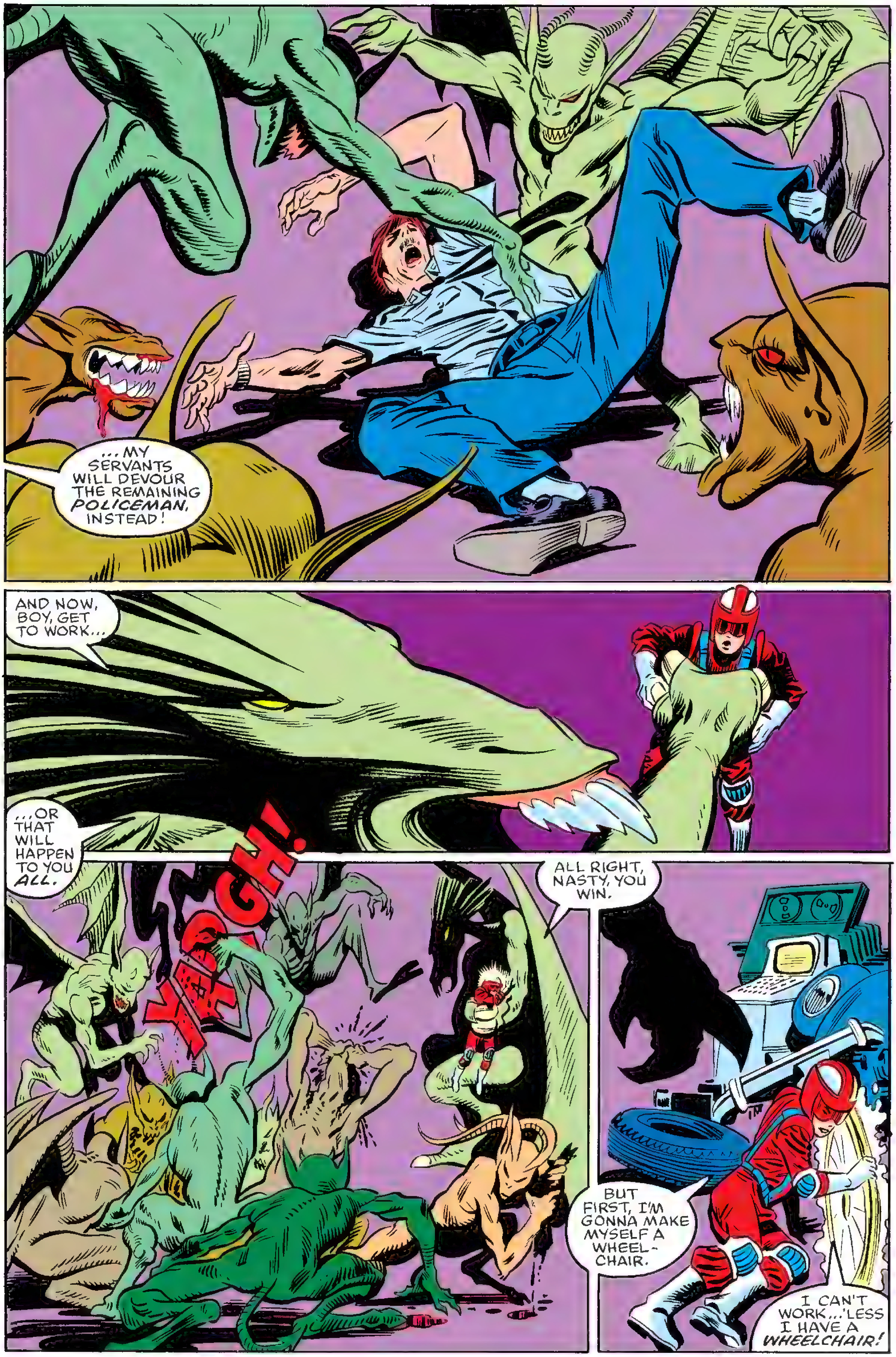

"YEAH. I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER *GET* TO QUEENS..."
I MUST ACCESS AND STRENGTHEN THE *SPELLS* IN MY *BOOK*... MANY SPELLS... ALMOST *SIMULTANEOUSLY.*
SQUEEEE
CLORTCH!
AND FOR THAT I WILL USE *YOU* ...AND THIS *'COMPUTER'* THAT YOU WILL *MAKE* FOR ME...
...A *COMPUTER,* LIKE THE ONE CROTUS DESCRIBED... ONE THAT WILL PROCESS MY SPELLS *QUICKLY...*
...AND *CHECK* THEM FOR *ACCURACY.*
S'YM, THE *DEMON LORD* THAT I... SERVE IN LIMBO, *UNDERESTIMATES* THE NEED FOR MAGIC.
HE WAS INFECTED AND TRANSFORMED BY THE TECHNO-ORGANIC *TRANSMODE VIRUS,* AND HAS COME TO RELY... ALMOST SOLELY...
...ON THE ABILITIES IT *IMPARTED* TO HIM!
S'YM HAS PLACED ME HERE ON EARTH TO DO THE *DRUDGE* WORK...
...TO *CREATE* AND *MANIPULATE* THE *FORCES* THAT WILL BRING *LIMBO* HERE TO EARTH.
S'YM THINKS THAT HE *USES* ME. BUT, IN TRUTH, I AM USING HIM.
HE FORGETS THAT THE DEMON WHO *MAKES* THE MAGICKS KNOWS THEM MOST INTIMATELY... AND THUS *CONTROLS* THEM!
AND THAT, THROUGH THESE FORCES, I *N'ASTIRH,* WILL BE THE TRUE *RULER* OF THE *DEMONIC* KINGDOM THAT IS COMING.
A SCRYING *SPELL! SIMPLE* MAGICK, ANYWHERE BUT ON YOUR WORLD.

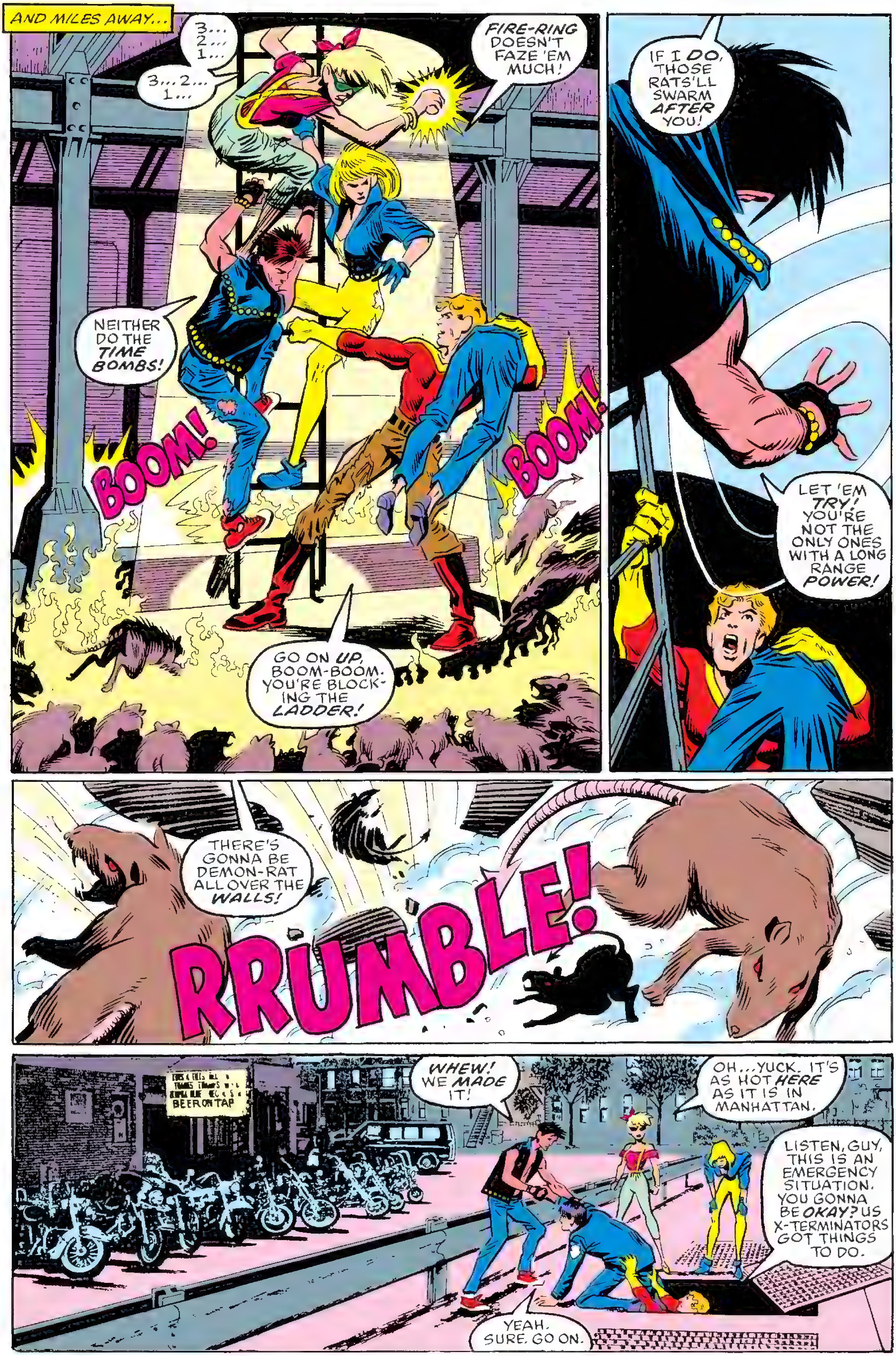
BEHOLD, THE GREAT AND POWERFUL S'YM ...THE MASTER WHOM I MUST SERVE.
TECHNOLOGY HAS BECOME S'YM'S MASTER ...GIVING HIM ILLUSORY STRENGTH IN THE WAR TO OVERTHROW THE DARKCHILDE...
...LEADING HIM TO OVERWEENING PRIDE ...AND FORGETFULNESS OF THE OLD DEMON WAYS.
S'YM IS NOT FIT TO RULE... THERE...OR HERE. BUT I--
* SEE NEW MUTANTS #71. --BOB
IF YOU HATE TECHNOLOGY SO MUCH, THEN WHY--?
I DISLIKE TECHNOLOGY ONLY AS AN END IN ITSELF. TECHNOLOGY IS A TOOL... LIKE MAGIC... FOR ME TO USE...
...AS I WILL USE YOU.
ALL RIGHT, NASTY, I'LL DO IT... BUT IT'LL HAVE TO BE MY WAY!
TAKI-- NO!
Don't sweat it, Leech! The BIG kids--the X-Terminators--will come for us.
My job's to stall... and keep us alive till they get here.
I'LL NEED ARTIE AND LEECH FOR ASSISTANTS. YOUR ...DEMONS MAKE ME FEEL "FUNNY" ...AND I CAN'T WORK WHEN I FEEL FUNNY.
I NEED HEALTH FOOD. ORGANIC, NATURAL BEAN-SPROUTS, BROWN RICE, STUFF LIKE THAT.
PROCESSED FOODS UPSET MY BODY'S BIO-CHEMICAL BALANCE ...AND I CAN'T WORK WHEN I'M OFF BALANCE.
AND STUFF FOR THE BABIES. I CAN'T WORK WITH THEM SQUAWKING...
ALSO MACHINE PARTS AND COMPUTER CHIPS. THE MORE HIGH-TECH STUFF THE BETTER!
THE METAPHYSICS OF MATERIALS ALREADY CARRYING A TECHNOLOGICAL IMPRINT MAKES THEM BETTER CANDIDATES FOR TRANSFORMATION. AND--
YOU, MUTANT, ARE IN NO POSITION TO BARGAIN!
HEY, MAN, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR IS HARD UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS.
YOU WANT GOOD WORK, YOU GOTTA BE A LITTLE FLEXIBLE...

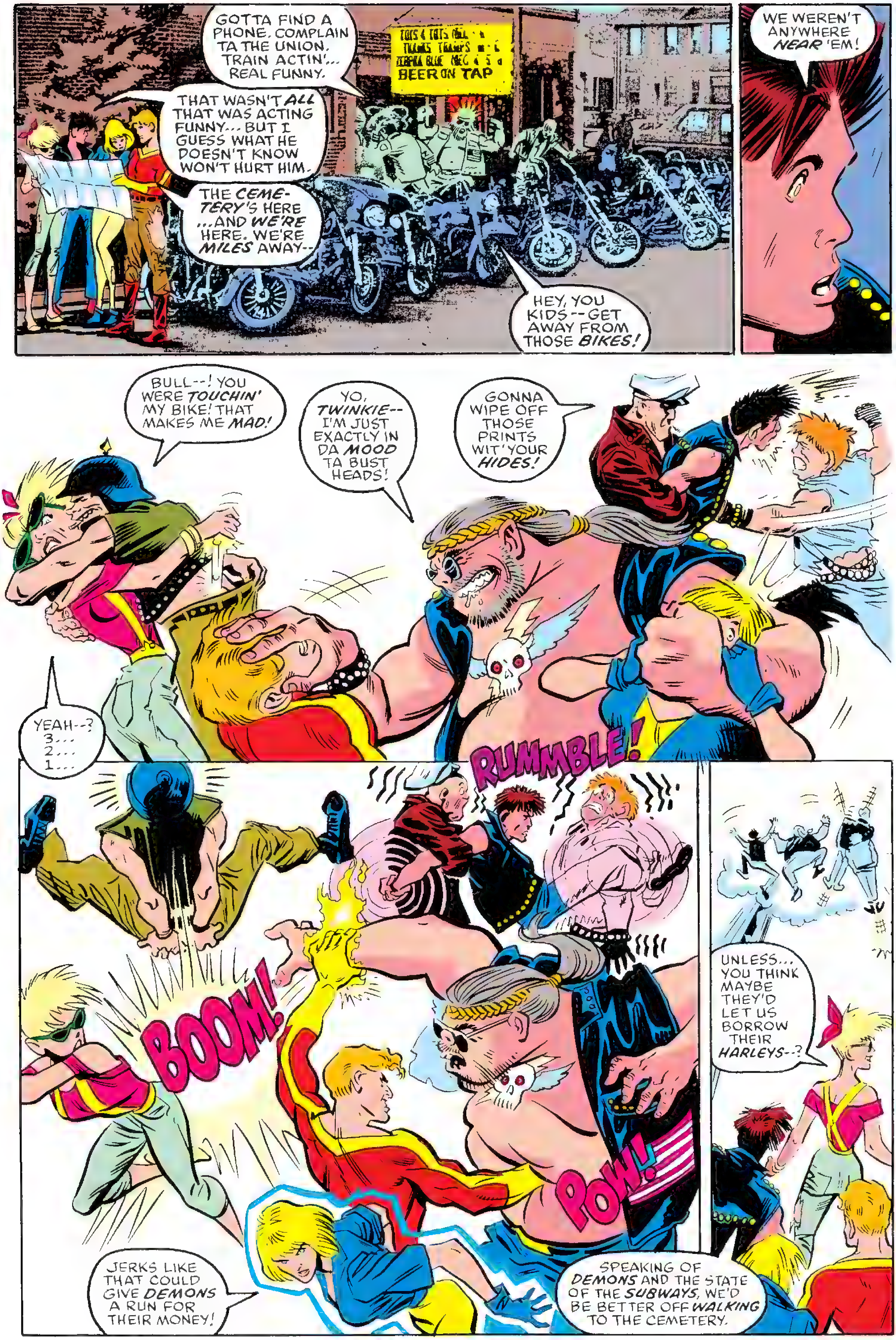

ELSEWHERE...
WHAK!
WE MUST BE GOING OVER TWO HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR --PRACTICALLY STRAIGHT DOWN!
MY EARS POPPED, THAT MEANS WE'VE GONE UNDER THE EAST RIVER, HEADING INTO QUEENS.
GREAT! WE'RE THERE! WE'VE ARRIVED!
SOMEBODY, PULL THE EMERGENCY BRAKE! STOP THIS THING!
ENOUGH OF THAT SCREAMIN'! I RUN A TIGHT TRAIN!
THERE'LL BE NO HORSIN' 'ROUND, NEITHER!
YOU KIDS JUST SIT QUIET AND PEACEFUL...
...'CAUSE WHERE I'M TAKIN' YOU, IT'S THE LAST PEACE YOU'RE GONNA GET!
IT FIGURES!
SKIDS, CAN YOU RUN THIS THING?
SURE. ALL US MORLOCKS KNEW HOW.
WHAK!
THEN DO IT!
HEY--HE TURNED HUMAN AGAIN!

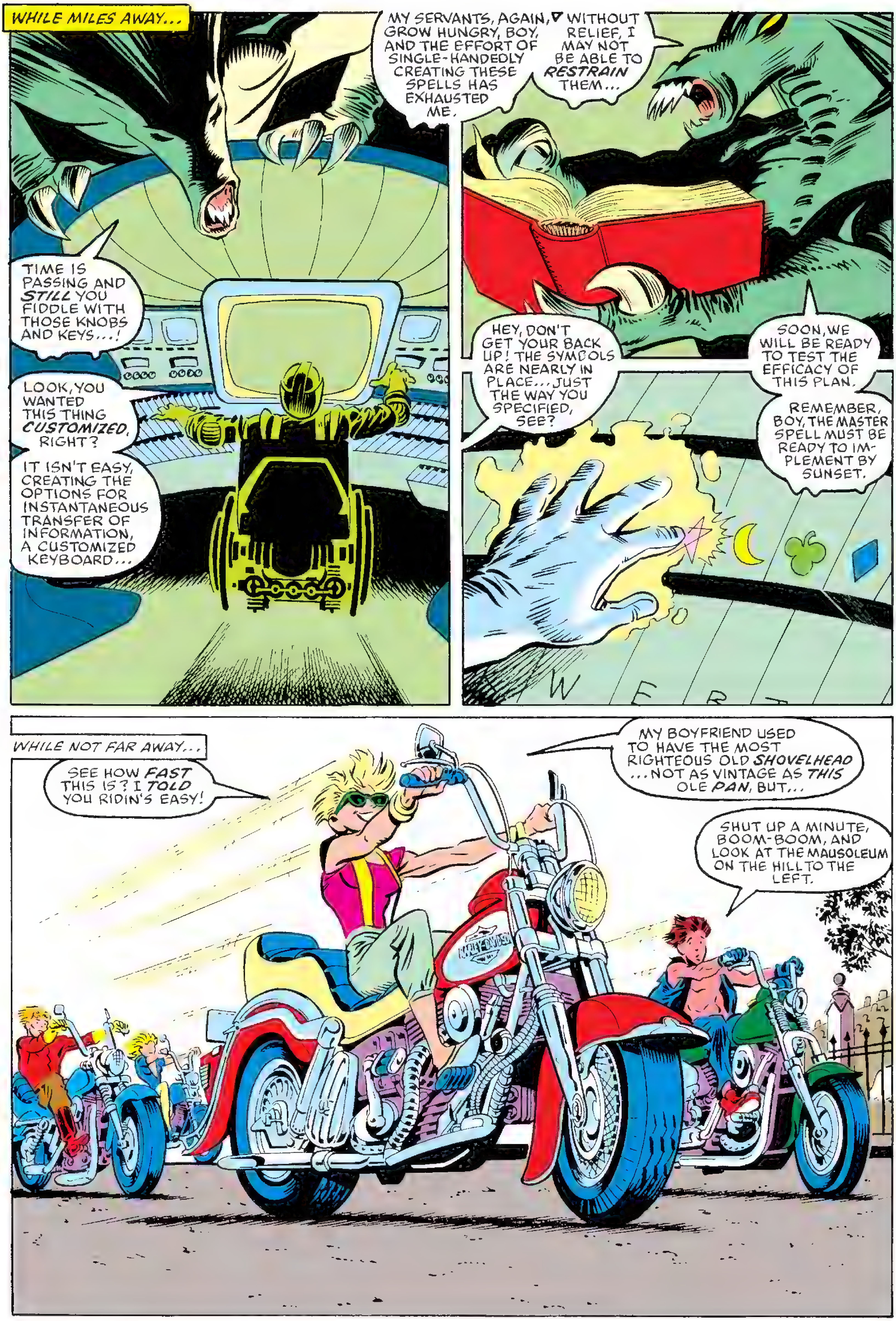

JUST LIKE THE *LIBRARY LION!*
YEAH. LIKE THAT. SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IS GOING ON!
AT LEAST THE TRAIN'S HEADED *UP*.
SKRUNCHH!
UH, RICTOR... YOU HEAR THAT--?
YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE METAL CRUNCHING TOGETHER--
OH, *NO*... THE *WALLS!* THEY'RE CLOSING *IN* ON US! IT'S TRYING TO *CRUSH* US!
UH... SKIDS--?
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU! GOOD THING THE *BRAKES* WORK!
RUSTY, I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU HOW TO DO YOUR JOB OR ANYTHING...
...BUT MAYBE YOU COULD HURRY IT UP A BIT?
QUIT YAPPING, BOOM-BOOM, AND HELP ME WITH THIS GUY.
HE MIGHTA BEEN DEMON-IZED... BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO LET HIM BE *CRUSHED!*
7 FLUSH
DON'T SWEAT IT, RICTOR. I'LL TAKE HIM. HE'S TOO HEAVY FOR YOU!
BUT...
PIECE OF *CAKE!* HE'S A *SKINNY* LITTLE GUY...

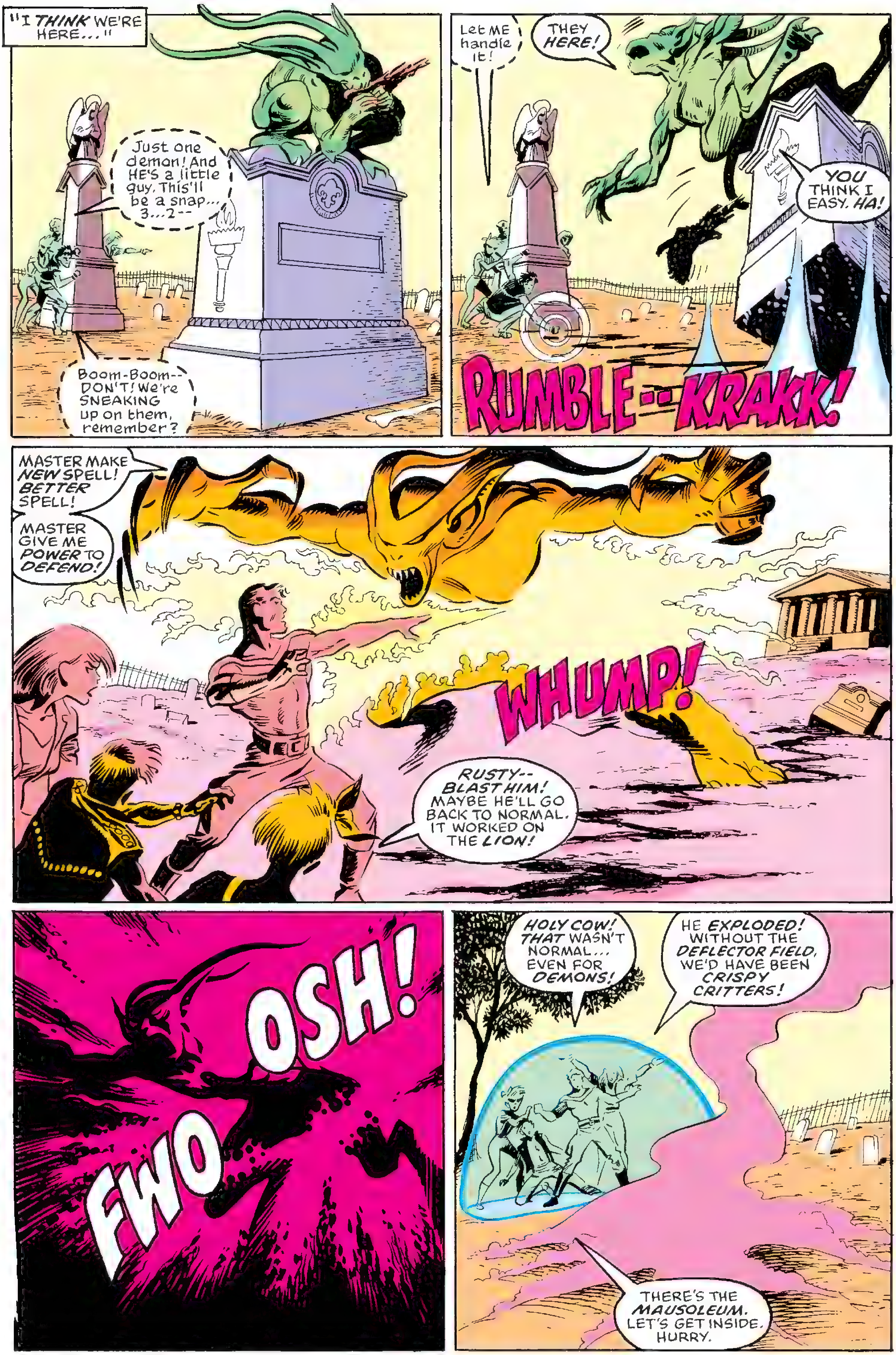

...AND I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT--YEIIIIII!
MEANWHILE...
HERE. ALL NATURAL ORGANIC HEALTH FOOD!
BLANKETS FOR BABIES!
ULTRA Pampers Plus
96 DIAPERS
96 DIAPERS
MANY COMPUTERS--ONE OF EVERY KIND.
PRETTY GOOD... BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH! I NEED SEVERAL MORE.
AND THOSE BLANKETS DON'T LOOK QUITE SOFT ENOUGH.
AND THAT FRUIT IS OVER RIPE. I CAN'T EAT FRUIT THAT'S OVER-RIPE.
BOSS, WE TIRED.
WE HUNGRY! ALL WE EAT WAS BONES.
OH... NO.
SONY
IBM
WE DONE OUR PART.
YOU FEED US LITTLE PINK AND GREEN MUTANTS...NOW!
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY WORK IF MY FRIENDS WERE EATEN. I'D BE MUCH TOO TRAUMATIZED...!
WOULD YOU, BOY? WHY, THEN ...YOUR FRIENDS ARE SAFE...

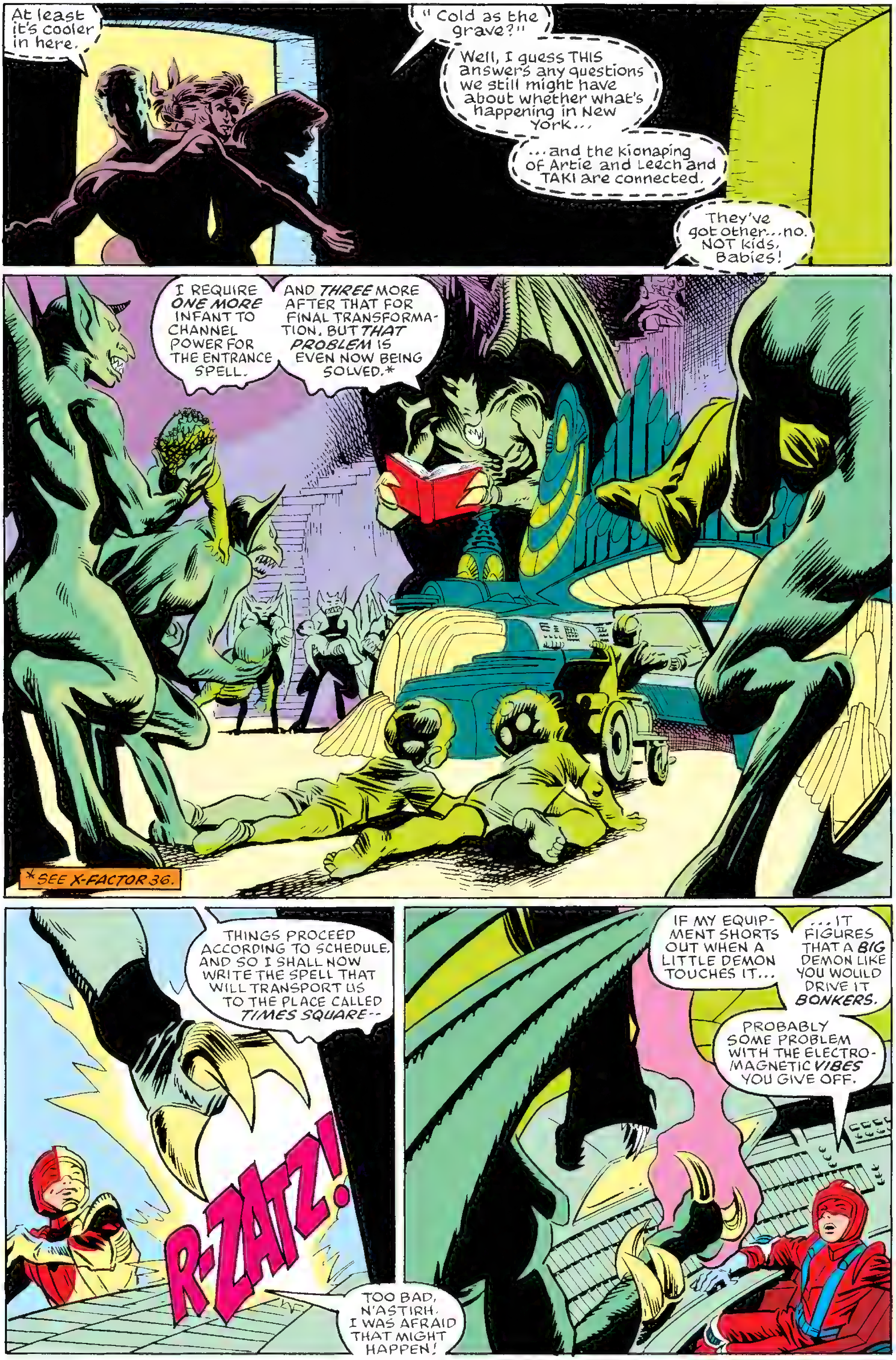

...MY SERVANTS WILL DEVOUR THE REMAINING *POLICEMAN*, INSTEAD!
AND NOW, BOY, GET TO WORK...
...OR THAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU *ALL*.
YAAGH!
ALL RIGHT, NASTY, YOU WIN.
BUT FIRST, I'M GONNA MAKE MYSELF A WHEELCHAIR.
I CAN'T WORK...'LESS I HAVE A *WHEELCHAIR*!

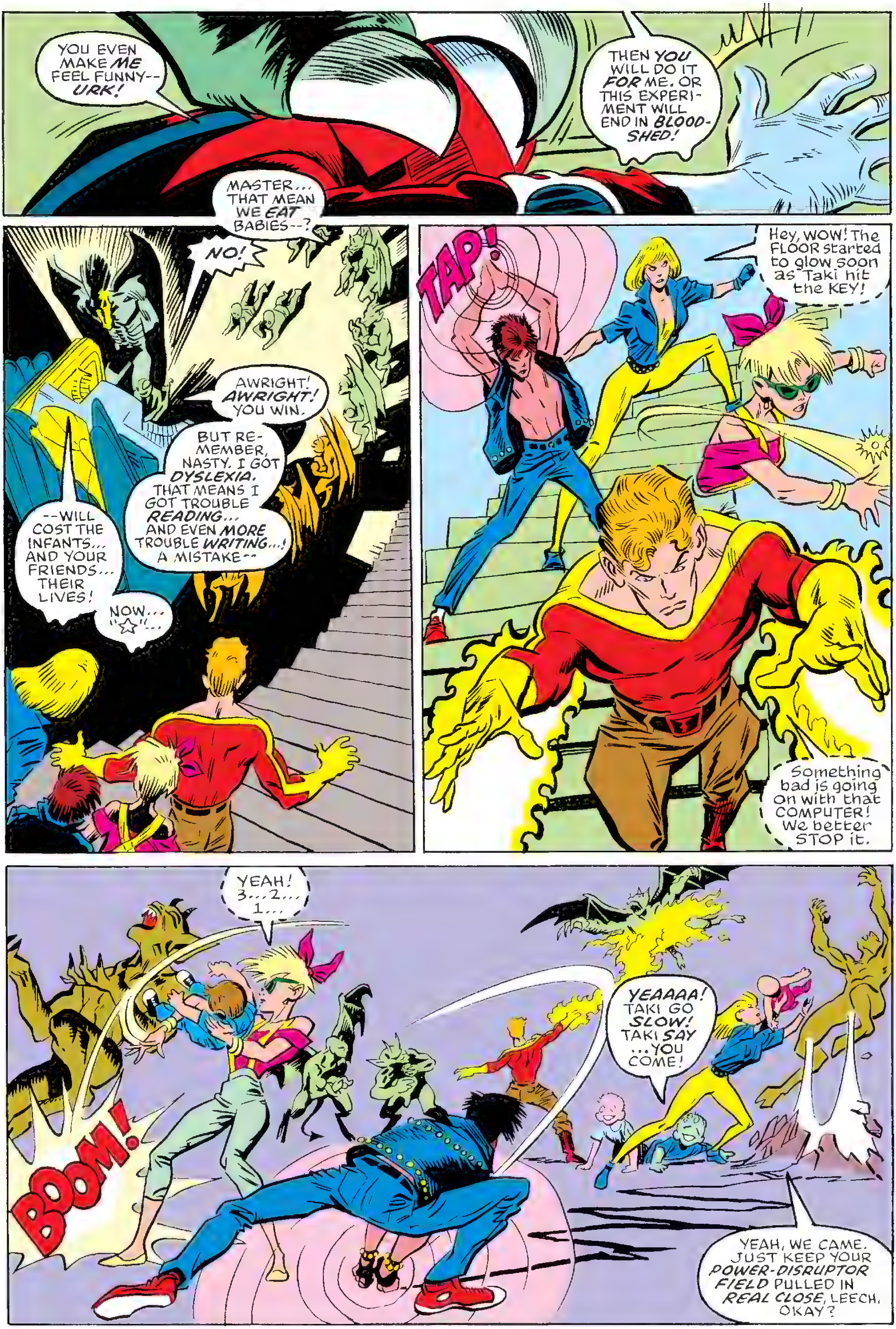

AND MILES AWAY...
3... 2... 1...
3... 2... 1...
FIRE-RING DOESN'T FAZE 'EM MUCH!
NEITHER DO THE TIME BOMBS!
BOOM!
BOOM!
GO ON UP, BOOM-BOOM. YOU'RE BLOCKING THE LADDER!
IF I DO, THOSE RATS'LL SWARM AFTER YOU!
LET 'EM TRY! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH A LONG RANGE POWER!
THERE'S GONNA BE DEMON-RAT ALL OVER THE WALLS!
RRUMBLE!
BEER ON TAP
WHEW! WE MADE IT!
OH... YUCK. IT'S AS HOT HERE AS IT IS IN MANHATTAN.
LISTEN, GUY, THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. YOU GONNA BE OKAY? US X-TERMINATORS GOT THINGS TO DO.
YEAH. SURE. GO ON.


GOTTA FIND A PHONE. COMPLAIN TA THE UNION. TRAIN ACTIN'... REAL FUNNY.
BEER ON TAP
THAT WASN'T *ALL* THAT WAS ACTING FUNNY... BUT I GUESS WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM.
THE *CEMETERY*'S HERE ...AND *WE'RE* HERE. WE'RE *MILES* AWAY--
HEY, YOU KIDS--GET AWAY FROM THOSE *BIKES!*
WE WEREN'T ANYWHERE *NEAR* 'EM!
BULL--! YOU WERE *TOUCHIN'* MY BIKE! THAT MAKES ME *MAD!*
YO, *TWINKIE*-- I'M JUST EXACTLY IN DA *MOOD* TA BUST HEADS!
GONNA WIPE OFF THOSE PRINTS WIT' YOUR *HIDES!*
YEAH--? 3... 2... 1...
RUMMBLE!
BOOM!
POW!
JERKS LIKE THAT COULD GIVE *DEMONS* A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY!
SPEAKING OF *DEMONS* AND THE STATE OF THE *SUBWAYS*, WE'D BE BETTER OFF *WALKING* TO THE CEMETERY.
UNLESS... YOU THINK MAYBE THEY'D LET US BORROW THEIR *HARLEYS*--?

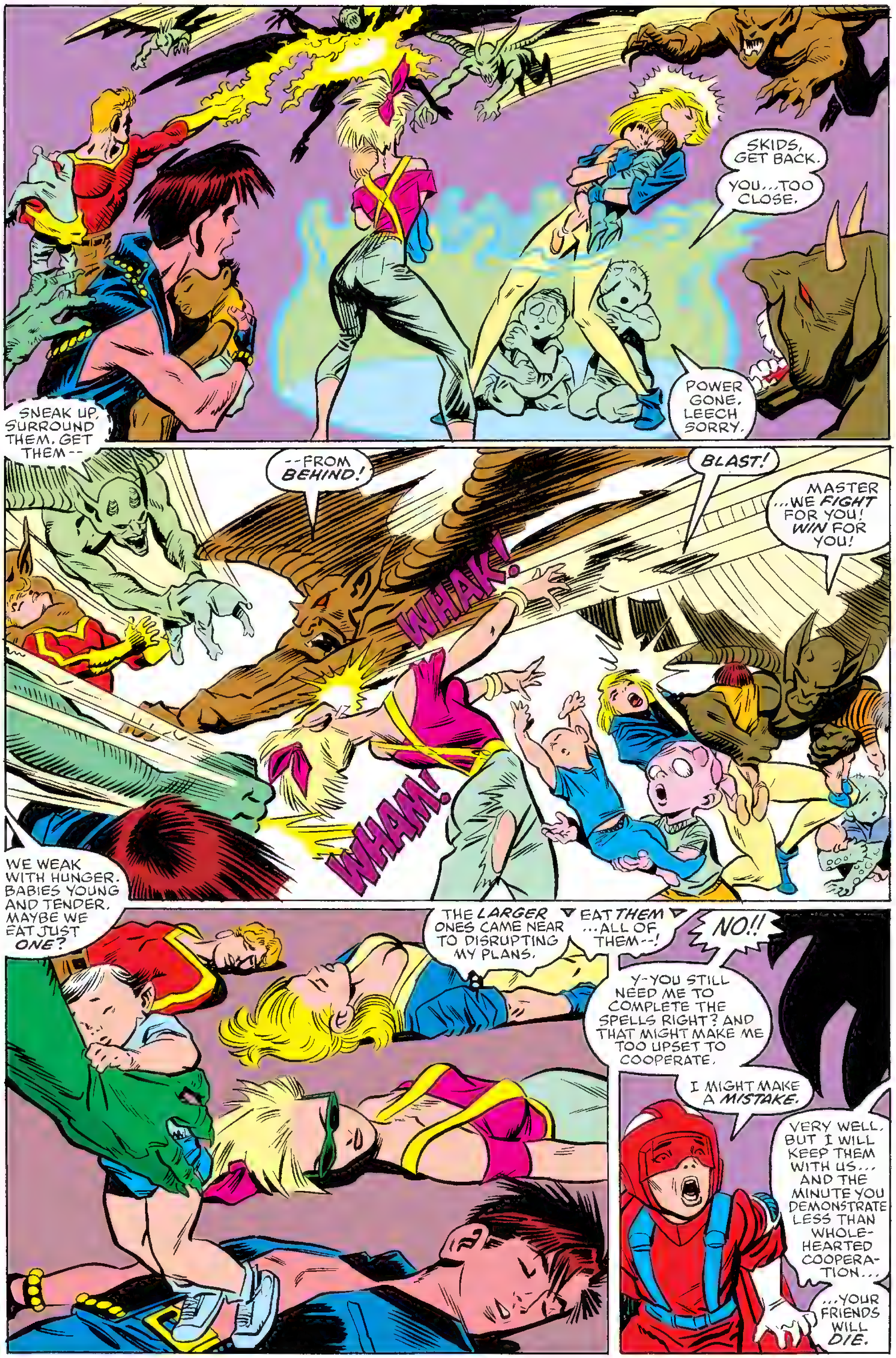

WHILE MILES AWAY...
TIME IS PASSING AND *STILL* YOU FIDDLE WITH THOSE KNOBS AND KEYS...!
LOOK, YOU WANTED THIS THING *CUSTOMIZED*, RIGHT?
IT ISN'T EASY, CREATING THE OPTIONS FOR INSTANTANEOUS TRANSFER OF INFORMATION, A CUSTOMIZED KEYBOARD...
MY SERVANTS, AGAIN, GROW HUNGRY, BOY, AND THE EFFORT OF SINGLE-HANDEDLY CREATING THESE SPELLS HAS EXHAUSTED ME.
WITHOUT RELIEF, I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO *RESTRAIN* THEM...
HEY, DON'T GET YOUR BACK UP! THE SYMBOLS ARE NEARLY IN PLACE... JUST THE WAY YOU SPECIFIED, SEE?
SOON, WE WILL BE READY TO TEST THE EFFICACY OF THIS PLAN.
REMEMBER, BOY, THE MASTER SPELL MUST BE READY TO IMPLEMENT BY SUNSET.
W E R
WHILE NOT FAR AWAY...
SEE HOW *FAST* THIS IS? I *TOLD* YOU RIDIN'S EASY!
MY BOYFRIEND USED TO HAVE THE MOST RIGHTEOUS OLD *SHOVELHEAD* ...NOT AS VINTAGE AS *THIS* OLE *PAN*, BUT...
SHUT UP A MINUTE, BOOM-BOOM, AND LOOK AT THE MAUSOLEUM ON THE HILL TO THE LEFT.


"I THINK WE'RE HERE..."
Just one demon! And HE'S a little guy. This'll be a snap... 3...2--
Boom-Boom--DON'T! We're SNEAKING up on them, remember?
Let ME handle it!
THEY HERE!
YOU THINK I EASY. HA!
RUMBLE--KRAKK!
MASTER MAKE NEW SPELL! BETTER SPELL!
MASTER GIVE ME POWER TO DEFEND!
WHUMP!
RUSTY--BLAST HIM! MAYBE HE'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL. IT WORKED ON THE LION!
FWOOSH!
HOLY COW! THAT WASN'T NORMAL... EVEN FOR DEMONS!
HE EXPLODED! WITHOUT THE DEFLECTOR FIELD, WE'D HAVE BEEN CRISPY CRITTERS!
THERE'S THE MAUSOLEUM. LET'S GET INSIDE. HURRY.

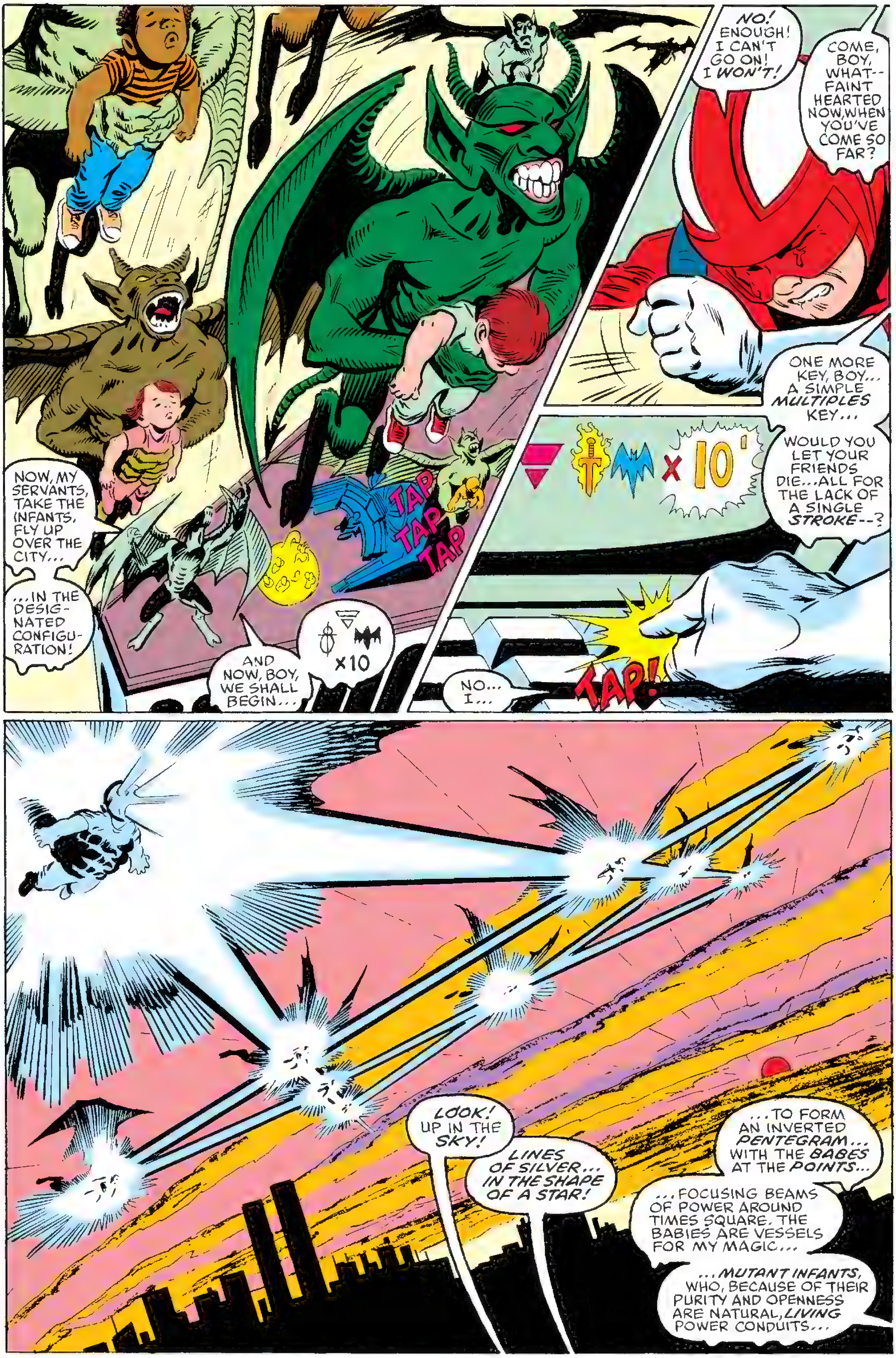

At least it's cooler in here.
"Cold as the grave?"
Well, I guess THIS answers any questions we still might have about whether what's happening in New York...
...and the kidnaping of Artie and Leech and TAKI are connected.
They've got other...no. NOT kids. Babies!
I REQUIRE ONE MORE INFANT TO CHANNEL POWER FOR THE ENTRANCE SPELL.
AND THREE MORE AFTER THAT FOR FINAL TRANSFORMATION. BUT THAT PROBLEM IS EVEN NOW BEING SOLVED.*
*SEE X-FACTOR 36.
THINGS PROCEED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, AND SO I SHALL NOW WRITE THE SPELL THAT WILL TRANSPORT US TO THE PLACE CALLED TIMES SQUARE--
R-ZATZ!
TOO BAD, N'ASTIRH. I WAS AFRAID THAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
IF MY EQUIPMENT SHORTS OUT WHEN A LITTLE DEMON TOUCHES IT...
...IT FIGURES THAT A BIG DEMON LIKE YOU WOULD DRIVE IT BONKERS.
PROBABLY SOME PROBLEM WITH THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC VIBES YOU GIVE OFF.

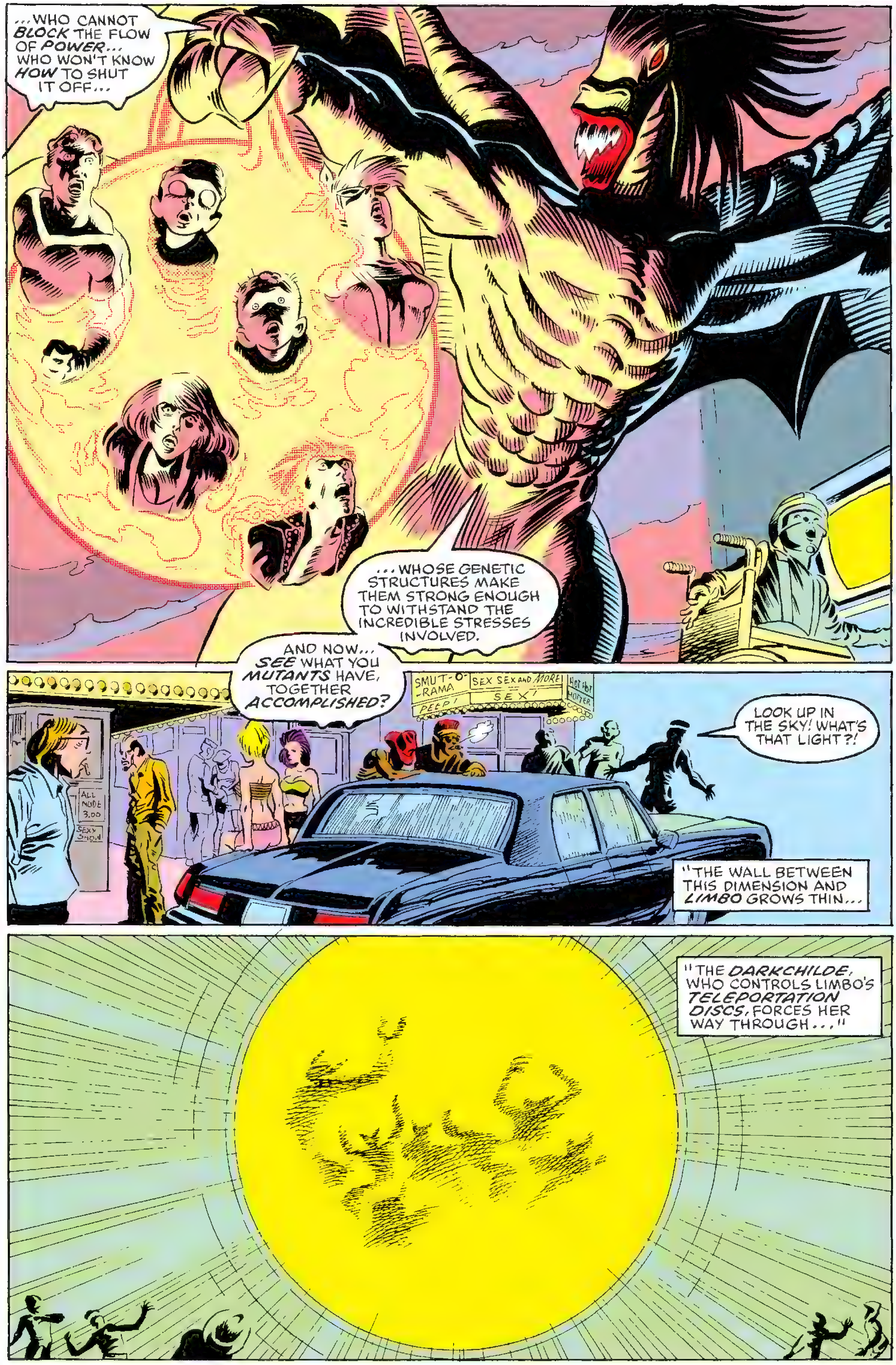

YOU EVEN MAKE *ME* FEEL FUNNY-- *URK!*
THEN *YOU* WILL DO IT *FOR* ME. OR THIS EXPERIMENT WILL END IN *BLOODSHED!*
MASTER... THAT MEAN WE *EAT* BABIES--?
NO!
AWRIGHT! *AWRIGHT!* YOU WIN.
BUT REMEMBER, NASTY. I GOT *DYSLEXIA.* THAT MEANS I GOT TROUBLE *READING*... AND EVEN *MORE* TROUBLE *WRITING*...! A MISTAKE--
--WILL COST THE INFANTS... AND YOUR FRIENDS... THEIR LIVES!
NOW... "☆"...
TAP!
Hey, WOW! The FLOOR started to glow soon as Taki hit the KEY!
Something bad is going on with that COMPUTER! We better STOP it.
YEAH! 3... 2... 1...
BOOM!
YEAAAA! TAKI GO *SLOW!* TAKI *SAY* ...YOU COME!
YEAH, WE CAME. JUST KEEP YOUR *POWER-DISRUPTOR FIELD* PULLED IN *REAL CLOSE,* LEECH. OKAY?

THE BIG ONE'S THROWING BOLTS! HE'S STILL GOT TAKI!
SO KEEP THE DEFLECTOR SHIELD ON FULL TO PROTECT THE BABIES! WE'LL GET TAKI!
IT'S NO SWEAT, SKIDS. REALLY. ACING THESE DEMON-GOBLIN-DUDES IS A PIECE OF--UH OH!
AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER--WE COME!
WE BRING BABY!
WE FIGHT!


SKIDS, GET BACK.
YOU...TOO CLOSE.
POWER GONE. LEECH SORRY.
SNEAK UP, SURROUND THEM. GET THEM --
--FROM *BEHIND!*
BLAST!
MASTER ...WE *FIGHT* FOR YOU! *WIN* FOR YOU!
WHAK!
WHAM!
WE WEAK WITH HUNGER. BABIES YOUNG AND TENDER. MAYBE WE EAT JUST *ONE?*
THE *LARGER* ONES CAME NEAR TO DISRUPTING MY PLANS.
EAT *THEM* ...ALL OF THEM--!
NO!!
Y-YOU STILL NEED ME TO COMPLETE THE SPELLS RIGHT? AND THAT MIGHT MAKE ME TOO UPSET TO COOPERATE.
I MIGHT MAKE A *MISTAKE.*
VERY WELL. BUT I WILL KEEP THEM WITH US... AND THE MINUTE YOU DEMONSTRATE LESS THAN WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION...
...YOUR FRIENDS WILL *DIE.*

AND NOW WE SHALL BEGIN...
TAKI! NO! DON'T DO IT!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!
...A SPELL OF *TRANSPORT*, WHICH WILL TAKE ALL OF US TO THE MOST CENTRAL SOURCE OF *NEGATIVE* ENERGY IN *MANHATTAN*...
...TIMES SQUARE!
ADULT BOOKS
SEX-O RAMA
PEEP
ADULT XX
CAMERAS COPIERS VIDEO
MINOLTA


NOW, MY SERVANTS, TAKE THE INFANTS, FLY UP OVER THE CITY...
...IN THE DESIGNATED CONFIGURATION!
TAP TAP TAP
AND NOW, BOY, WE SHALL BEGIN...
×10
NO! ENOUGH! I CAN'T GO ON! I *WON'T!*
COME, BOY, WHAT--FAINT HEARTED NOW, WHEN YOU'VE COME SO FAR?
ONE MORE KEY, BOY... A SIMPLE *MULTIPLES* KEY...
x 10'
WOULD YOU LET YOUR FRIENDS DIE...ALL FOR THE LACK OF A SINGLE *STROKE*--?
NO... I...
TAP!
LOOK! UP IN THE *SKY!*
LINES OF SILVER... IN THE SHAPE OF A STAR!
...TO FORM AN INVERTED *PENTEGRAM*... WITH THE *BABES* AT THE *POINTS*...
...FOCUSING BEAMS OF POWER AROUND TIMES SQUARE. THE BABIES ARE VESSELS FOR MY MAGIC...
...*MUTANT INFANTS,* WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR PURITY AND OPENNESS ARE NATURAL, *LIVING* POWER CONDUITS...


...WHO CANNOT *BLOCK* THE FLOW OF *POWER*... WHO WON'T KNOW *HOW* TO SHUT IT OFF...
...WHOSE GENETIC STRUCTURES MAKE THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE INCREDIBLE STRESSES INVOLVED.
AND NOW... *SEE* WHAT YOU *MUTANTS* HAVE, TOGETHER *ACCOMPLISHED?*
SMUT-O-RAMA
PEEP!
SEX SEX AND MORE!
SEX
HOT HOT HOTTER
ALL NUDE 3.00
SEXY SHOW
LOOK UP IN THE SKY! WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?!
"THE WALL BETWEEN THIS DIMENSION AND *LIMBO* GROWS THIN...
"THE *DARKCHILDE,* WHO CONTROLS LIMBO'S *TELEPORTATION DISCS,* FORCES HER WAY THROUGH..."

...BUT IT IS I WHO CONTROL THIS *DISC*...
...I, WHO HOLD IT OPEN, AS ALL OF LIMBO POURS INTO MANHATTAN...
...AND I, *N'ASTIRH*, WILL RULE THE *INFERNO* THAT MANHATTAN WILL BECOME.
I SAVED MY *FRIENDS*. BUT...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WOULD DO...*COULD* DO. I... COULD NEVER HAVE *IMAGINED*.
AND NOW, BECAUSE OF *ME*...MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL *DIE*...!
I'VE GOT TO *STOP* IT. I'VE GOT TO *SAVE* THEM. BUT *HOW*--?
NEXT ISSUE-- FINALE!
THE *END* OF THE *BEGINNING*...THE *BEGINNING* OF THE *END* OF *EVERYTHING!*
GUEST-STARRING THE *NEW MUTANTS!*
DON'T MISS IT!

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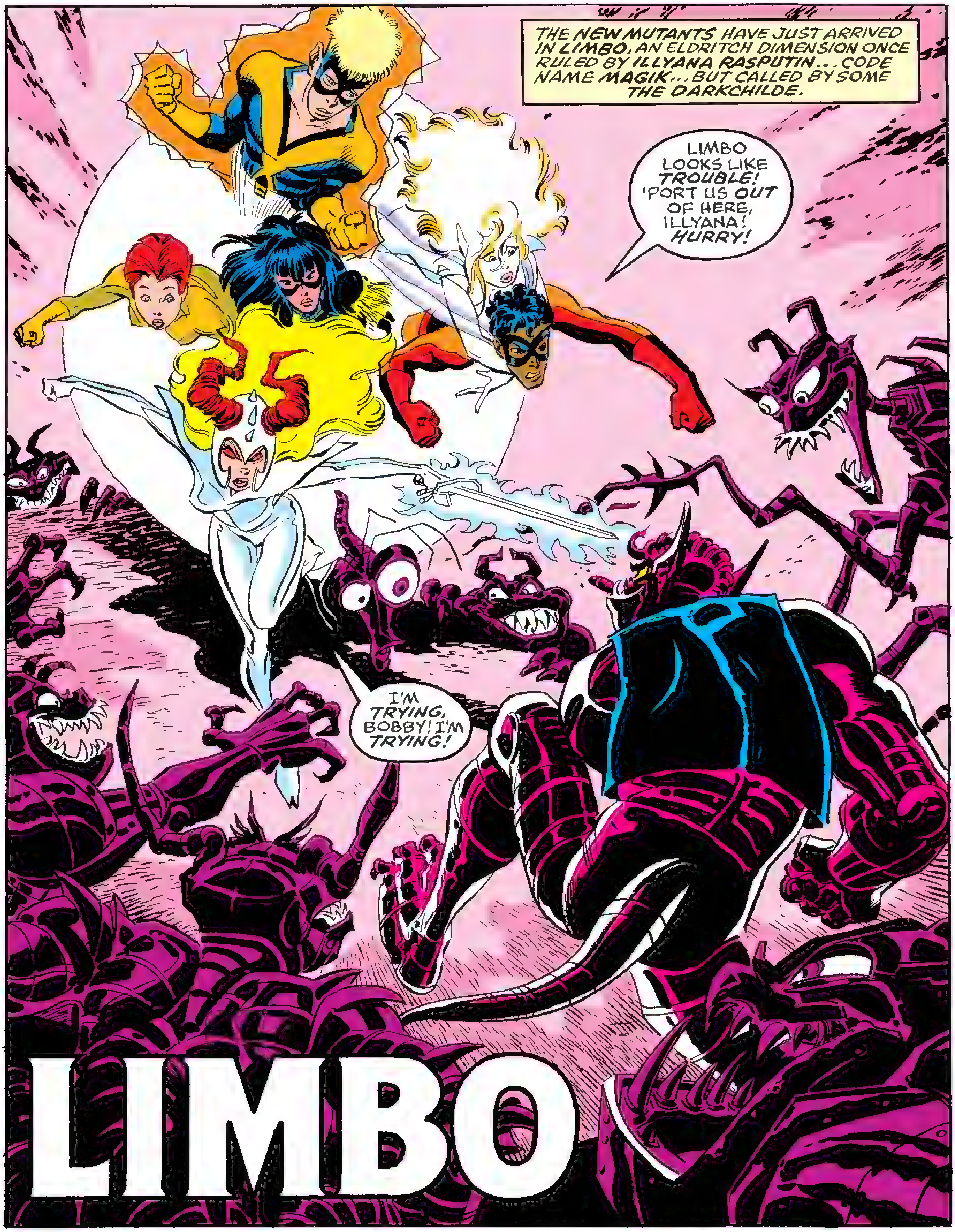
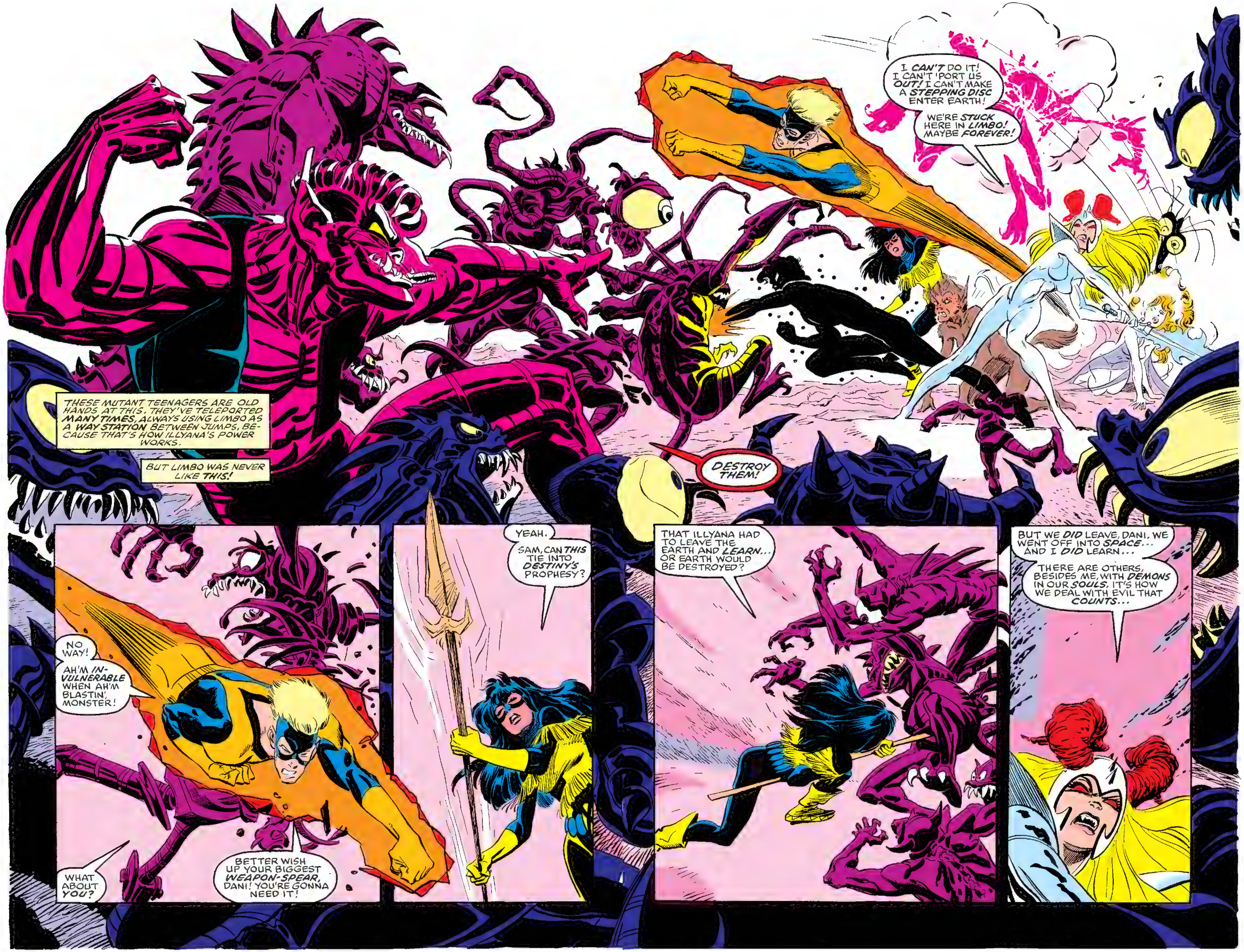
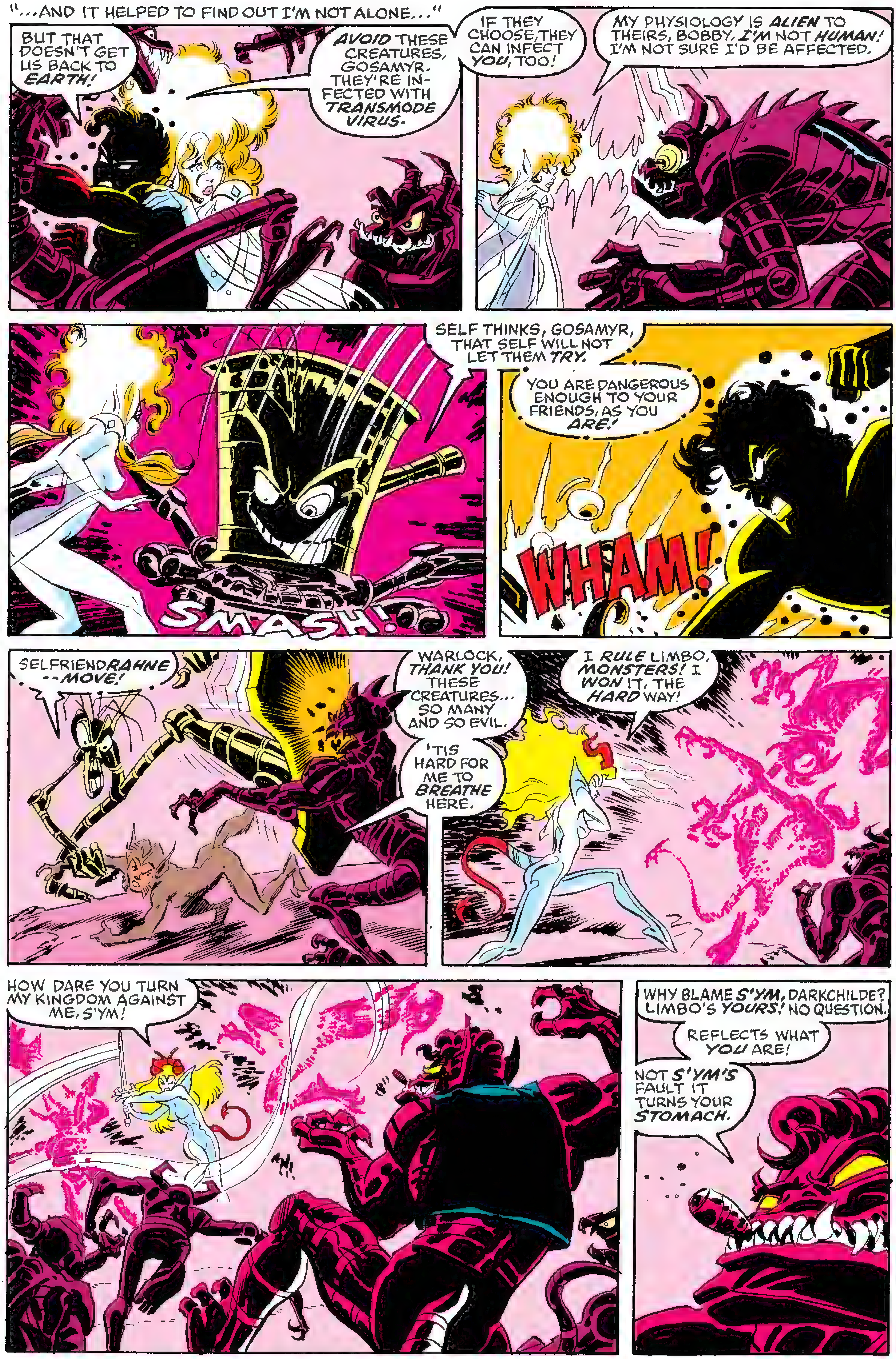
*FOR OVER FIVE MILLION YEARS, HUMANKIND HAS RULED THE EARTH. NOW A NEW BREED EMERGES -- **HOMO SUPERIOR**--BORN WITH A MUTANT GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWER.*

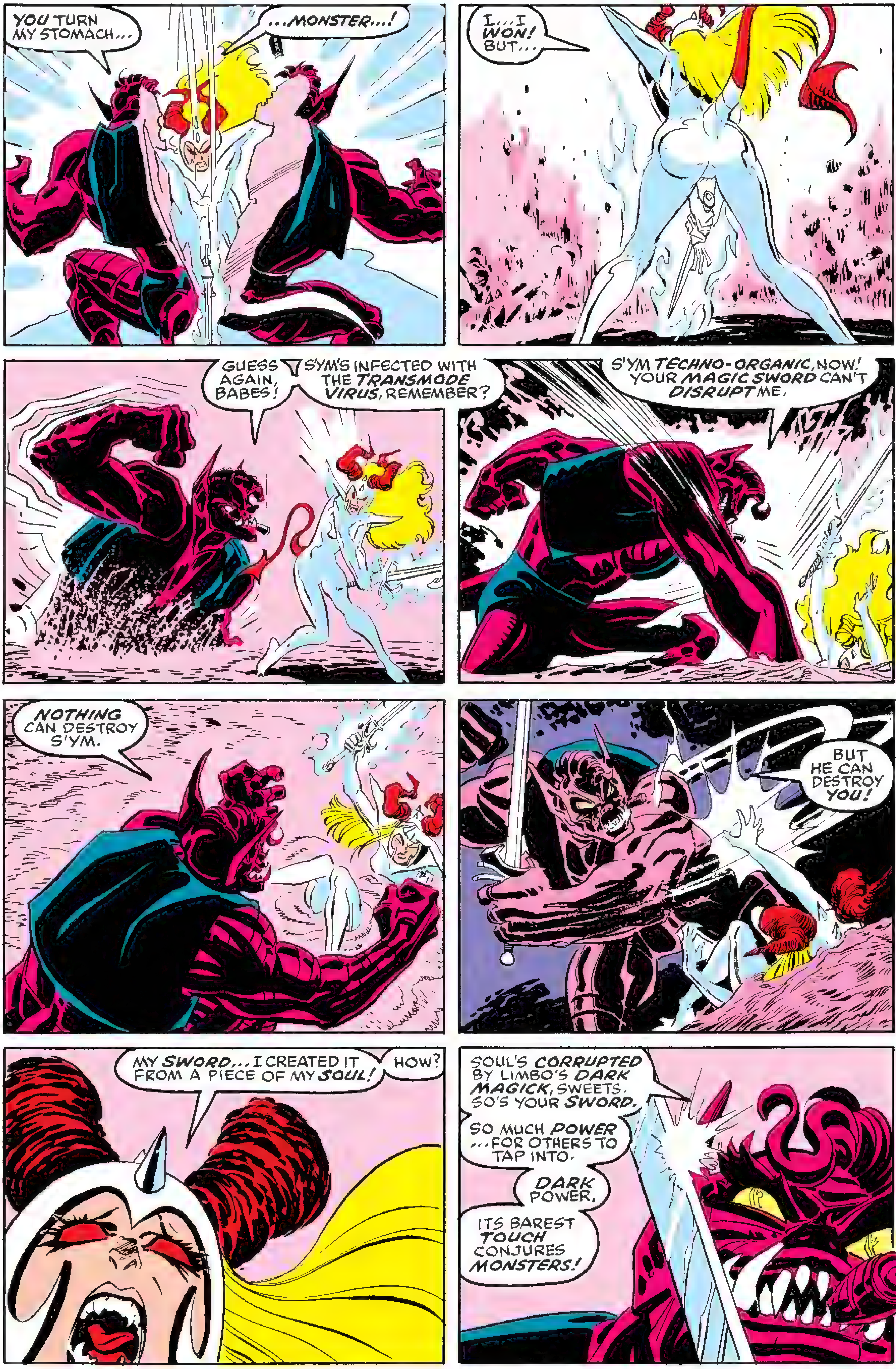

THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN LIMBO, AN ELDRITCH DIMENSION ONCE RULED BY ILLYANA RASPUTIN... CODE NAME MAGIK... BUT CALLED BY SOME THE DARKCHILDE.
LIMBO LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE! 'PORT US OUT OF HERE, ILLYANA! HURRY!
I'M TRYING, BOBBY! I'M TRYING!
LIMBO

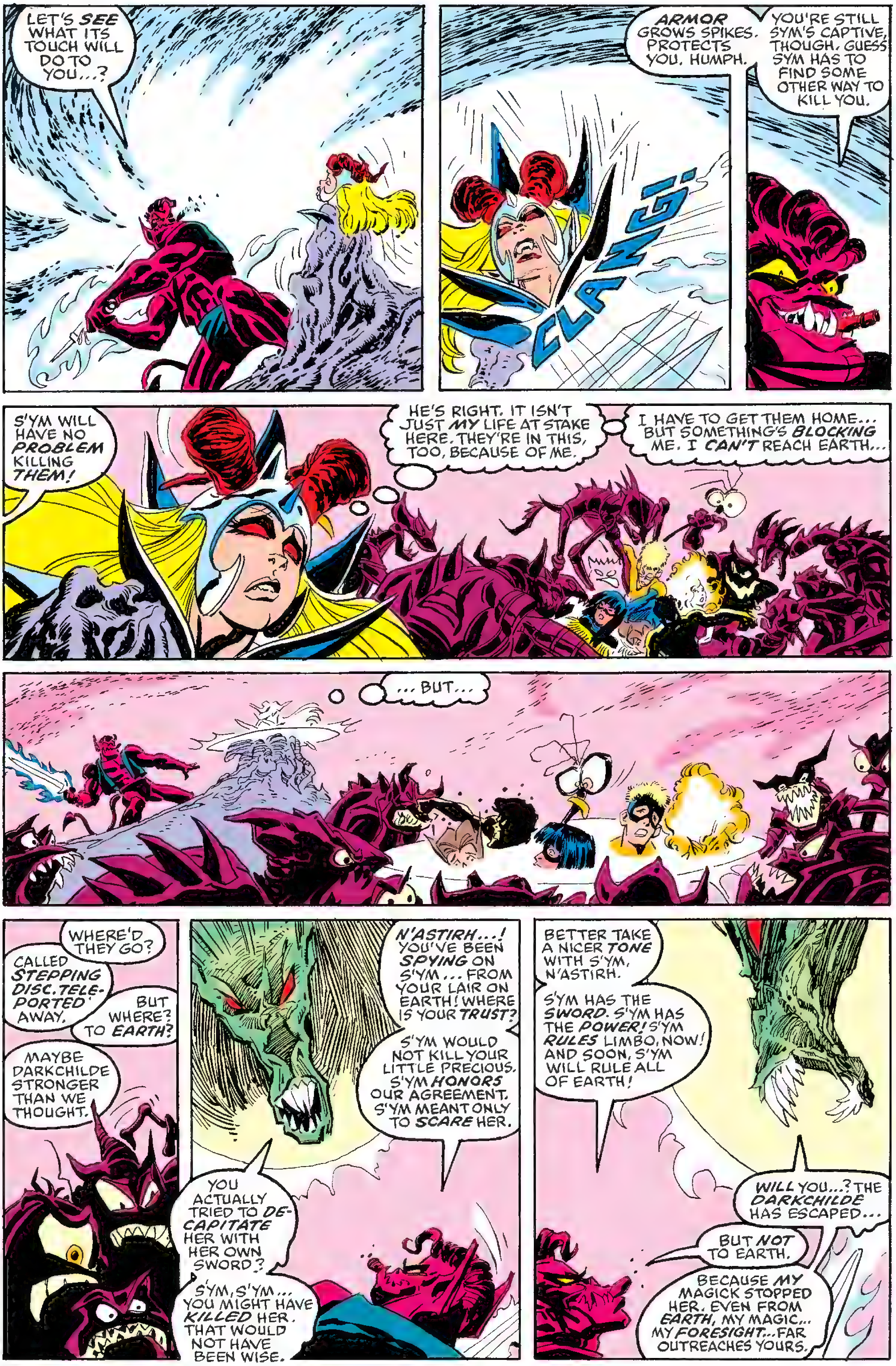
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION--BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

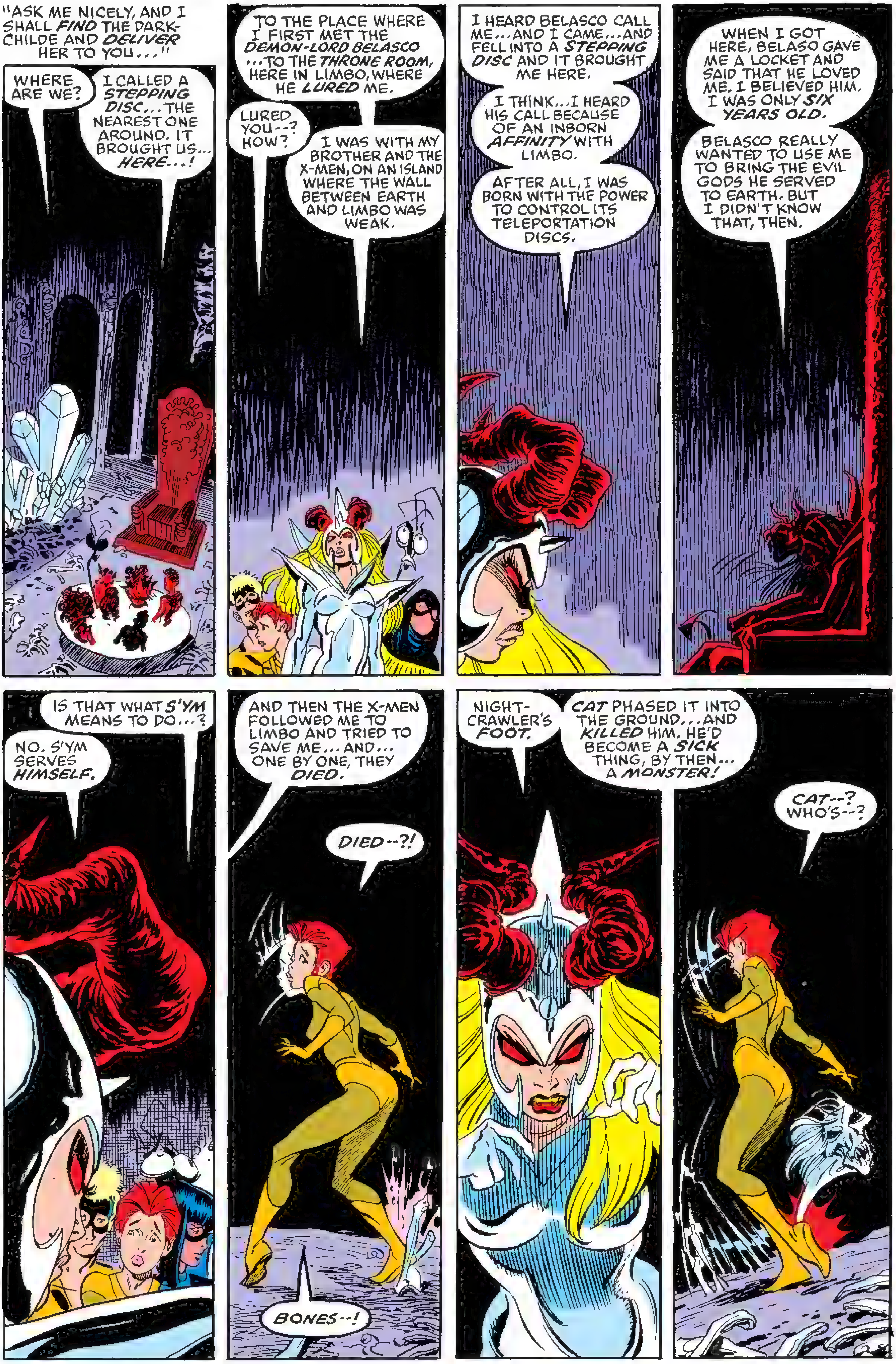
LOUISE SIMONSON	BRET BLEVINS	AL WILLIAMSON	JOE ROSEN	GLYNIS OLIVER	BOB HARRAS	TOM DEFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

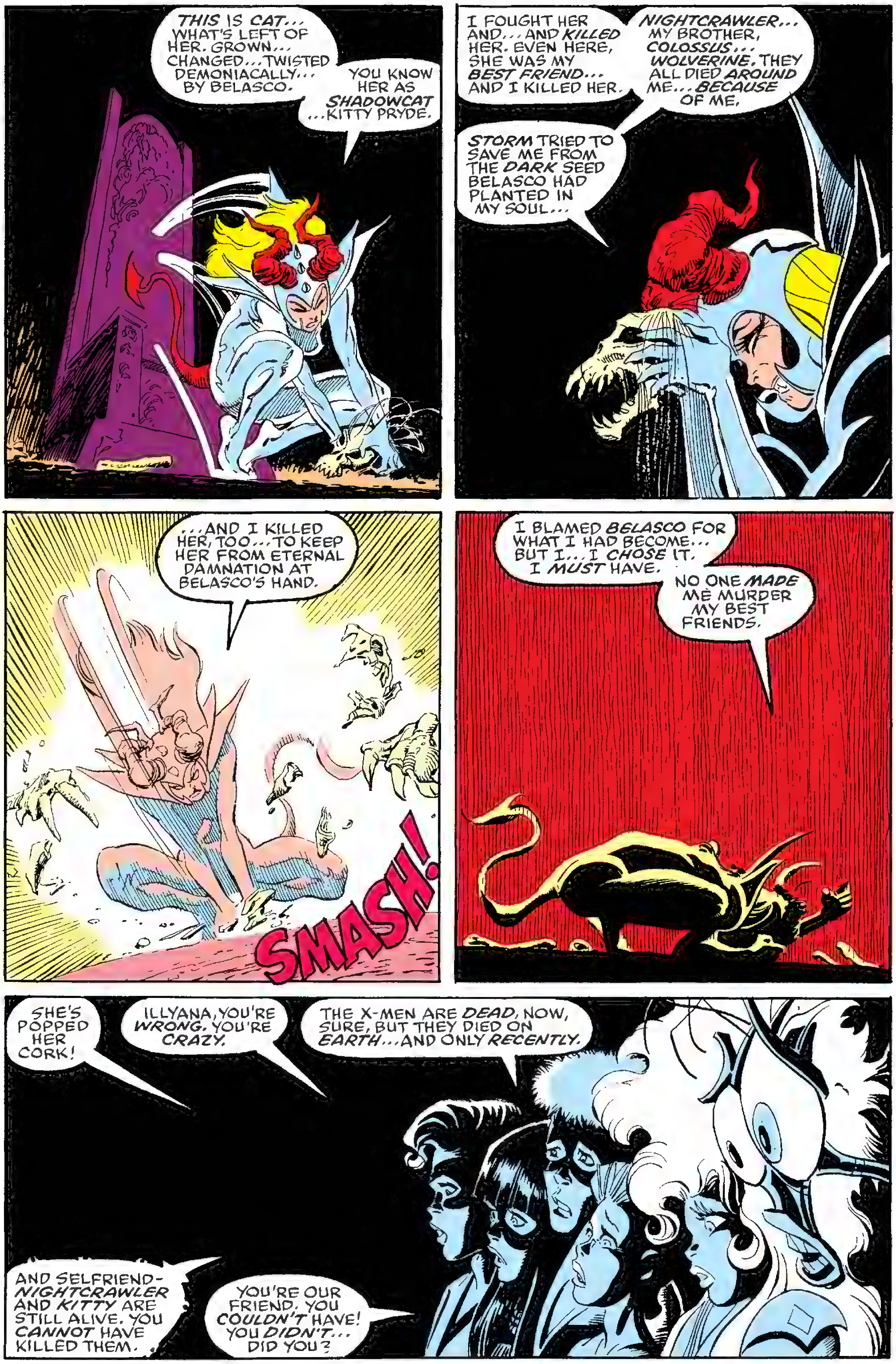

THESE MUTANT TEENAGERS ARE OLD HANDS AT THIS. THEY'VE TELEPORTED **MANY TIMES**, ALWAYS USING LIMBO AS A **WAY STATION** BETWEEN JUMPS, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW ILLYANA'S POWER WORKS.
BUT LIMBO WAS NEVER LIKE **THIS!**
I **CAN'T** DO IT! I CAN'T 'PORT US **OUT!** I CAN'T MAKE A **STEPPING DISC** ENTER EARTH!
WE'RE **STUCK** HERE IN **LIMBO!** MAYBE **FOREVER!**
DESTROY THEM!
NO WAY!
AH'M **INVULNERABLE** WHEN AH'M BLASTIN', MONSTER!
WHAT ABOUT **YOU?**
BETTER WISH UP YOUR BIGGEST **WEAPON-SPEAR,** DANI! YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT!
YEAH.
SAM, CAN **THIS** TIE INTO **DESTINY'S** PROPHESY?
THAT ILLYANA HAD TO LEAVE THE EARTH AND **LEARN**... OR EARTH WOULD BE DESTROYED?
BUT WE **DID** LEAVE, DANI. WE WENT OFF INTO **SPACE**... AND I **DID** LEARN...
THERE ARE OTHERS, BESIDES ME, WITH **DEMONS** IN OUR **SOULS.** IT'S HOW WE DEAL WITH EVIL THAT **COUNTS**...

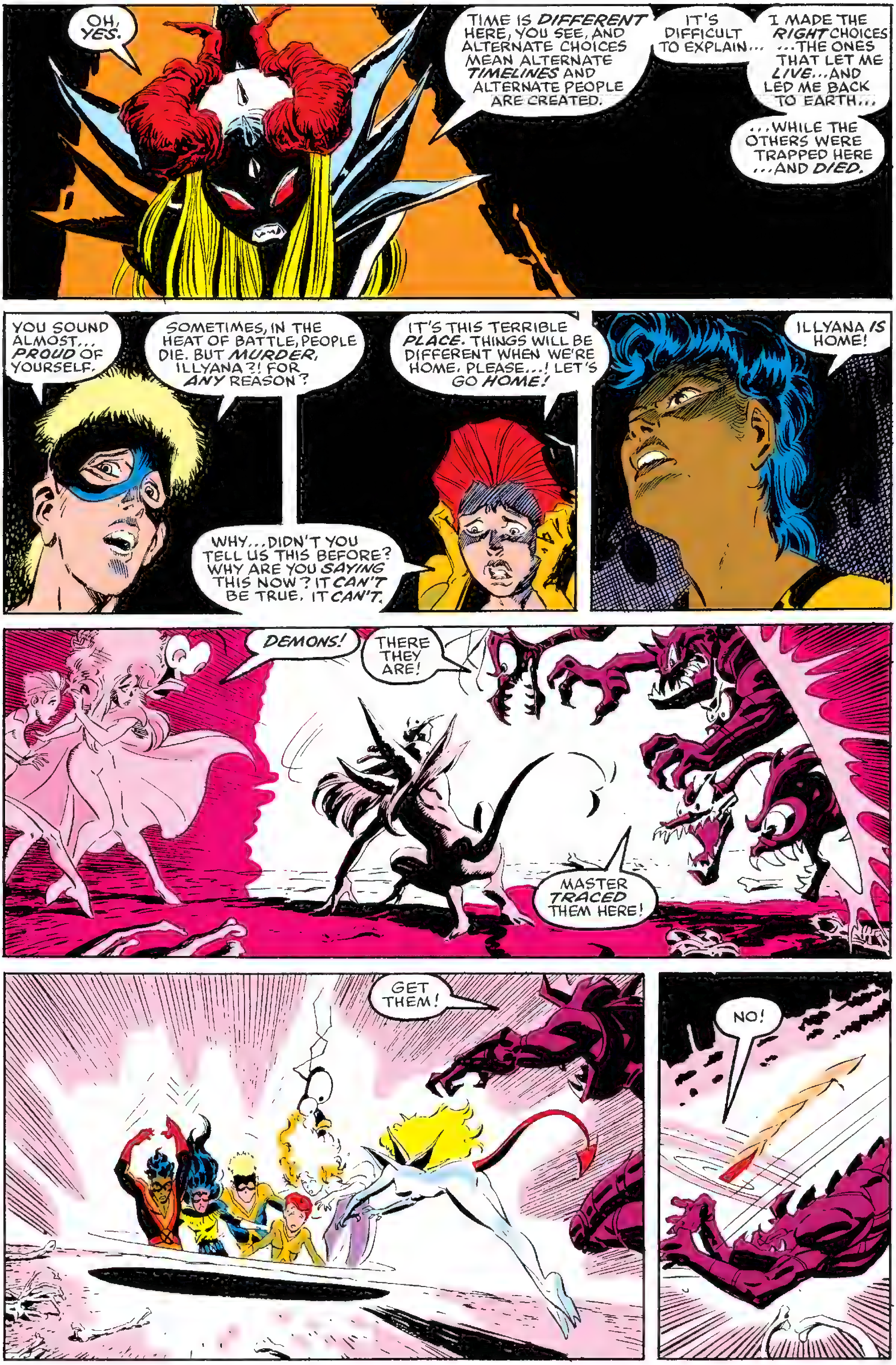

"...AND IT HELPED TO FIND OUT I'M NOT ALONE..."
BUT THAT DOESN'T GET US BACK TO *EARTH!*
AVOID THESE CREATURES, GOSAMYR. THEY'RE INFECTED WITH *TRANSMODE VIRUS.*
IF THEY CHOOSE, THEY CAN INFECT *YOU*, TOO!
MY PHYSIOLOGY IS *ALIEN* TO THEIRS, BOBBY. *I'M* NOT *HUMAN!* I'M NOT SURE I'D BE AFFECTED.
SMASH!
SELF THINKS, GOSAMYR, THAT SELF WILL NOT LET THEM *TRY.*
YOU ARE DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO YOUR FRIENDS, AS YOU *ARE!*
WHAM!
SELFRIEND*RAHNE* --*MOVE!*
WARLOCK, *THANK YOU!* THESE CREATURES... SO MANY AND SO EVIL.
'TIS HARD FOR ME TO *BREATHE* HERE.
I *RULE* LIMBO, *MONSTERS!* I *WON* IT, THE *HARD* WAY!
HOW DARE YOU TURN MY KINGDOM AGAINST ME, S'YM!
WHY BLAME *S'YM,* DARKCHILDE? LIMBO'S *YOURS!* NO QUESTION.
REFLECTS WHAT *YOU* ARE!
NOT *S'YM'S* FAULT IT TURNS YOUR *STOMACH.*

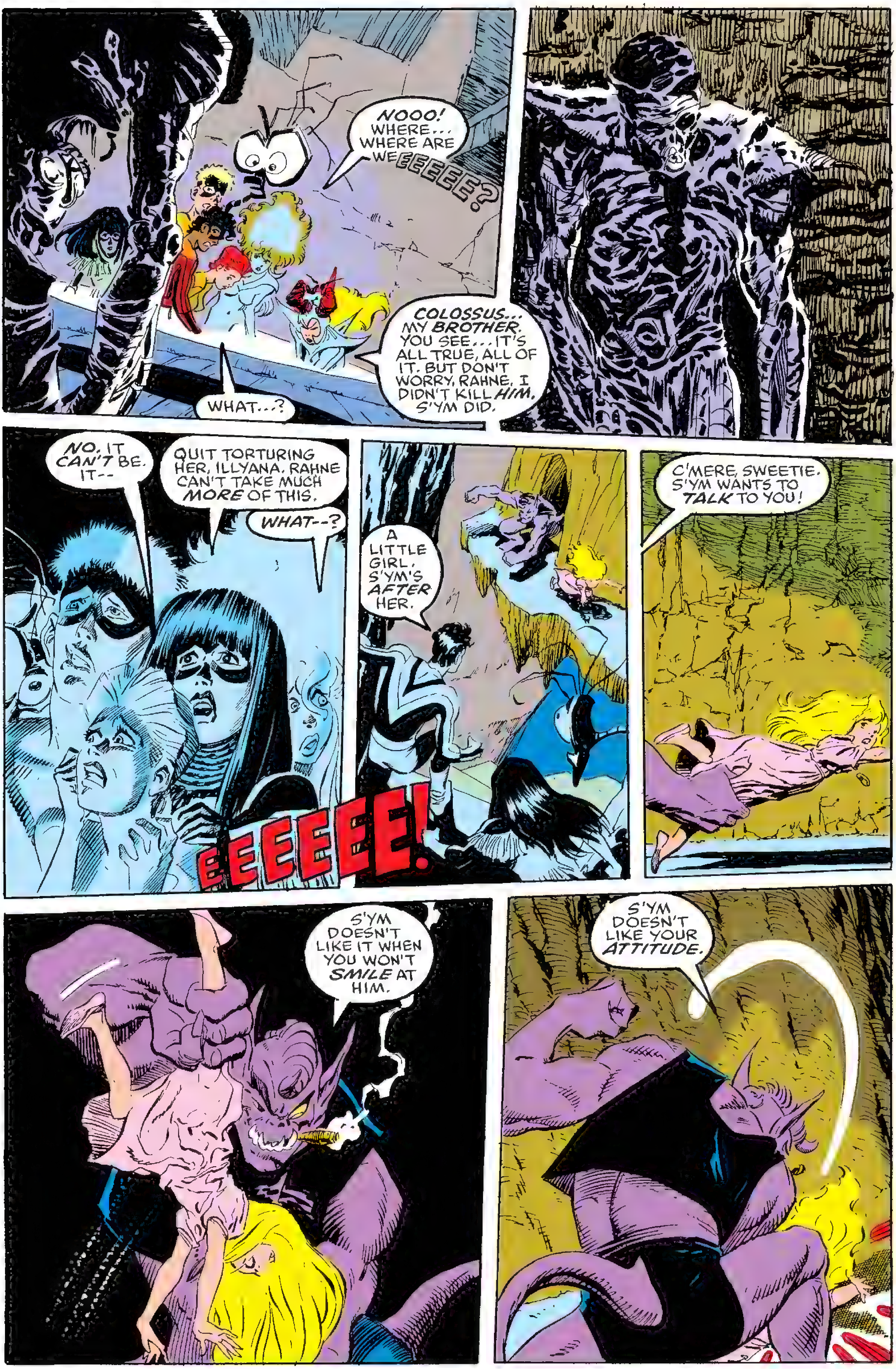

YOU TURN MY STOMACH...
...MONSTER...!
I... I WON! BUT...
GUESS AGAIN, BABES!
S'YM'S INFECTED WITH THE TRANSMODE VIRUS, REMEMBER?
S'YM TECHNO-ORGANIC, NOW! YOUR MAGIC SWORD CAN'T DISRUPT ME.
NOTHING CAN DESTROY S'YM.
BUT HE CAN DESTROY YOU!
MY SWORD... I CREATED IT FROM A PIECE OF MY SOUL!
HOW?
SOUL'S CORRUPTED BY LIMBO'S DARK MAGICK, SWEETS. SO'S YOUR SWORD.
SO MUCH POWER ...FOR OTHERS TO TAP INTO.
DARK POWER.
ITS BAREST TOUCH CONJURES MONSTERS!


LET'S *SEE* WHAT ITS TOUCH WILL DO TO YOU...?
ARMOR GROWS SPIKES. PROTECTS YOU. HUMPH.
YOU'RE STILL SYM'S CAPTIVE, THOUGH. GUESS SYM HAS TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO KILL YOU.
CLANG!
S'YM WILL HAVE NO *PROBLEM* KILLING *THEM!*
HE'S RIGHT. IT ISN'T JUST *MY* LIFE AT STAKE HERE. THEY'RE IN THIS, TOO, BECAUSE OF ME.
I HAVE TO GET THEM HOME... BUT SOMETHING'S *BLOCKING* ME. I *CAN'T* REACH EARTH...
...BUT...
WHERE'D THEY GO?
CALLED *STEPPING DISC. TELE-PORTED* AWAY.
BUT WHERE? TO *EARTH?*
MAYBE DARKCHILDE STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT.
N'ASTIRH...! YOU'VE BEEN *SPYING* ON S'YM... FROM YOUR LAIR ON EARTH! WHERE IS YOUR *TRUST?*
S'YM WOULD NOT KILL YOUR LITTLE PRECIOUS. S'YM *HONORS* OUR AGREEMENT. S'YM MEANT ONLY TO *SCARE* HER.
YOU ACTUALLY TRIED TO *DECAPITATE* HER WITH HER OWN SWORD?
S'YM, S'YM... YOU MIGHT HAVE *KILLED* HER. THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WISE.
BETTER TAKE A NICER *TONE* WITH S'YM, N'ASTIRH.
S'YM HAS THE *SWORD.* S'YM HAS THE *POWER!* S'YM *RULES* LIMBO, NOW! AND SOON, S'YM WILL RULE ALL OF EARTH!
WILL YOU...? THE *DARKCHILDE* HAS ESCAPED...
BUT *NOT* TO EARTH.
BECAUSE *MY* MAGICK STOPPED HER. EVEN FROM *EARTH,* MY MAGIC... MY *FORESIGHT*... FAR OUTREACHES YOURS.

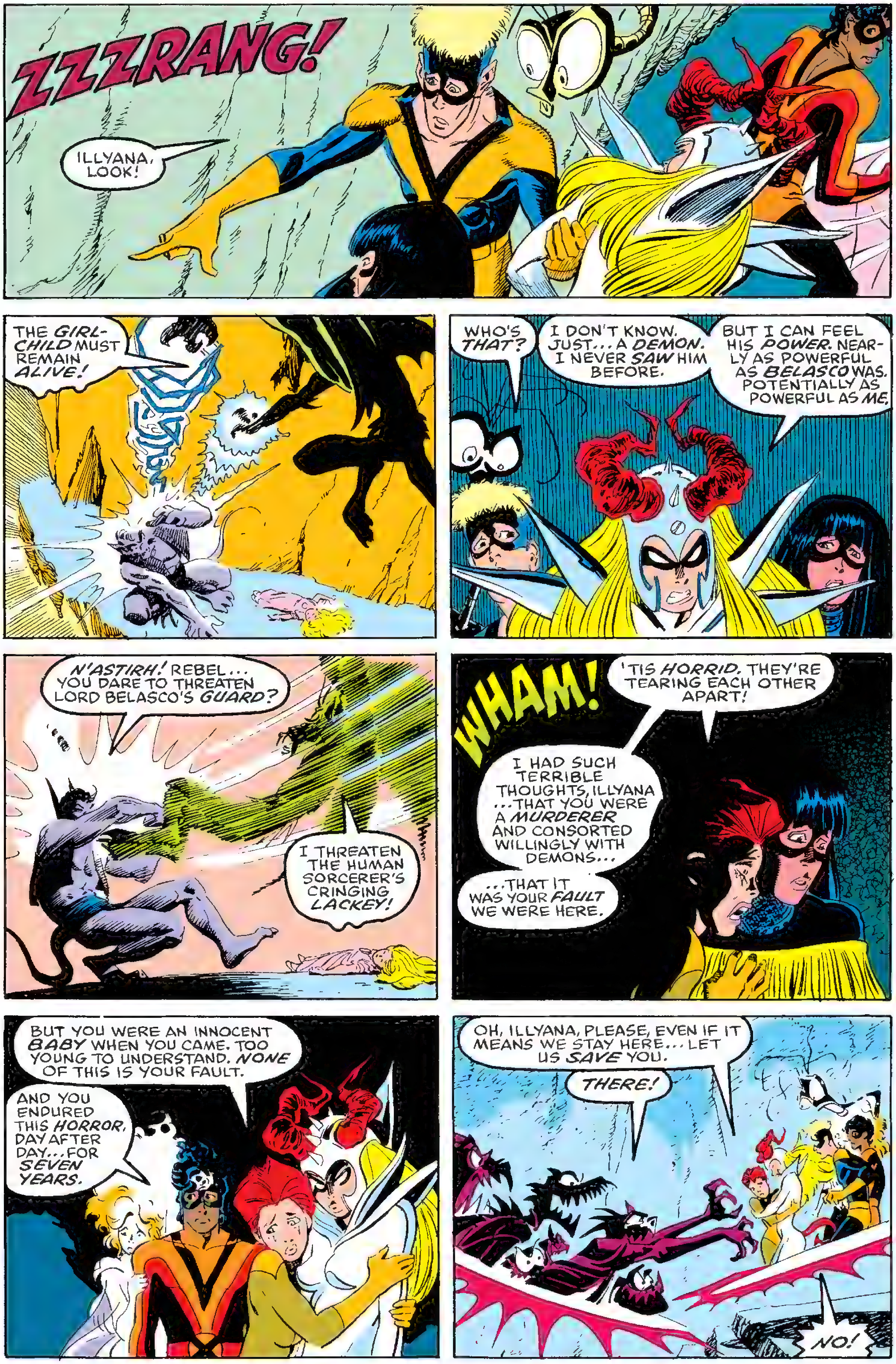

"ASK ME NICELY, AND I SHALL *FIND* THE DARKCHILDE AND *DELIVER* HER TO YOU..."
WHERE ARE WE?
I CALLED A *STEPPING DISC*... THE NEAREST ONE AROUND. IT BROUGHT US... *HERE*...!
TO THE PLACE WHERE I FIRST MET THE *DEMON-LORD BELASCO* ...TO THE *THRONE ROOM*, HERE IN LIMBO, WHERE HE *LURED* ME.
LURED YOU--? HOW?
I WAS WITH MY BROTHER AND THE X-MEN, ON AN ISLAND WHERE THE WALL BETWEEN EARTH AND LIMBO WAS WEAK.
I HEARD BELASCO CALL ME... AND I CAME... AND FELL INTO A *STEPPING DISC* AND IT BROUGHT ME HERE.
I THINK... I HEARD HIS CALL BECAUSE OF AN INBORN *AFFINITY* WITH LIMBO.
AFTER ALL, I WAS BORN WITH THE POWER TO CONTROL ITS TELEPORTATION DISCS.
WHEN I GOT HERE, BELASO GAVE ME A LOCKET AND SAID THAT HE LOVED ME. I BELIEVED HIM. I WAS ONLY *SIX YEARS OLD*.
BELASCO REALLY WANTED TO USE ME TO BRING THE EVIL GODS HE SERVED TO EARTH. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT, THEN.
IS THAT WHAT *S'YM* MEANS TO DO...?
NO. S'YM SERVES *HIMSELF*.
AND THEN THE X-MEN FOLLOWED ME TO LIMBO AND TRIED TO SAVE ME... AND... ONE BY ONE, THEY *DIED*.
DIED--?!
BONES--!
NIGHT-CRAWLER'S *FOOT*.
CAT PHASED IT INTO THE GROUND... AND *KILLED* HIM. HE'D BECOME A *SICK* THING, BY THEN... A *MONSTER*!
CAT--? WHO'S--?

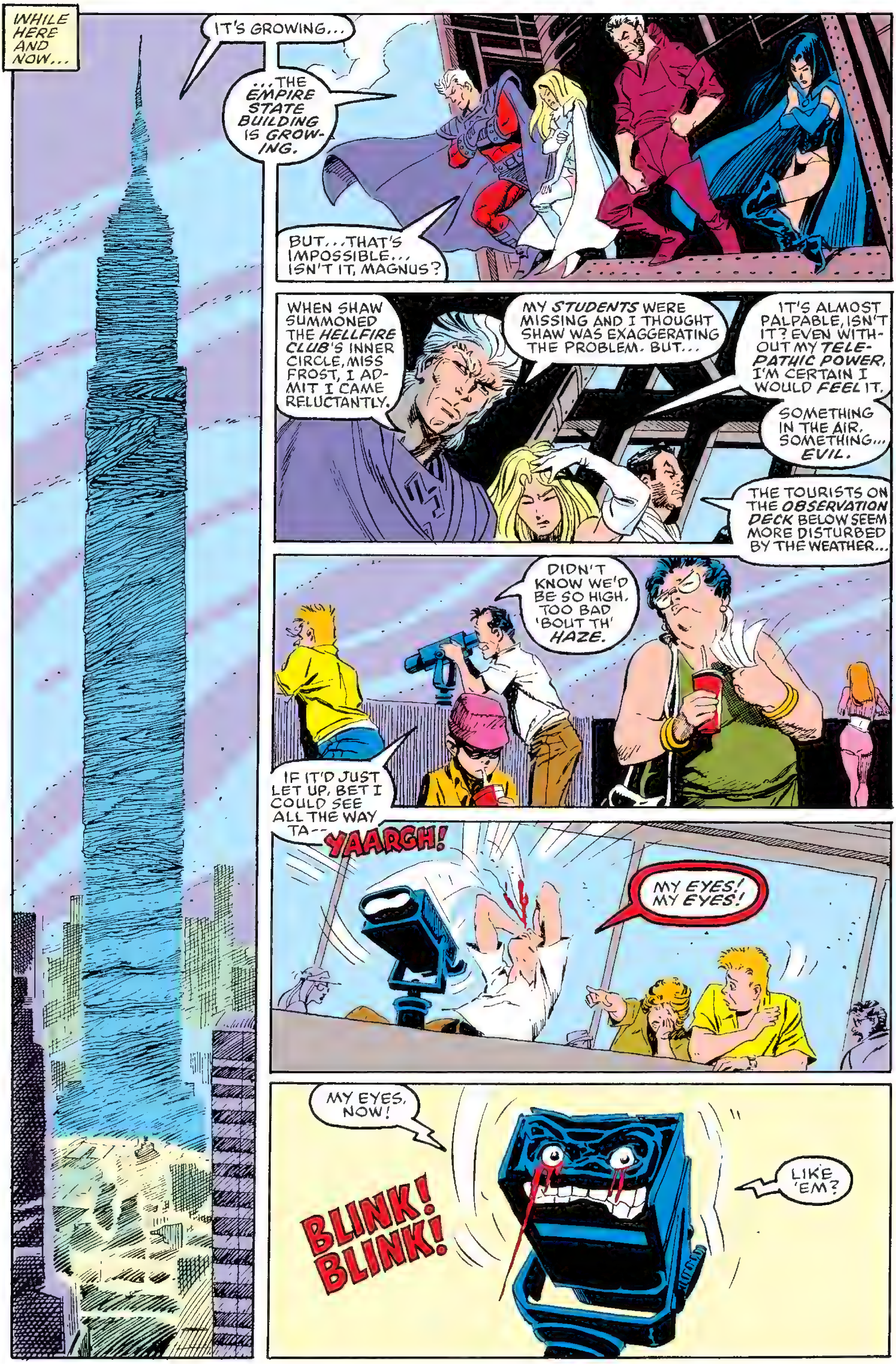

THIS IS CAT... WHAT'S LEFT OF HER. GROWN... CHANGED... TWISTED DEMONIACALLY... BY BELASCO.
YOU KNOW HER AS SHADOWCAT ...KITTY PRYDE.
I FOUGHT HER AND... AND KILLED HER. EVEN HERE, SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND... AND I KILLED HER.
NIGHTCRAWLER... MY BROTHER, COLOSSUS... WOLVERINE. THEY ALL DIED AROUND ME... BECAUSE OF ME.
STORM TRIED TO SAVE ME FROM THE DARK SEED BELASCO HAD PLANTED IN MY SOUL...
...AND I KILLED HER, TOO... TO KEEP HER FROM ETERNAL DAMNATION AT BELASCO'S HAND.
SMASH!
I BLAMED BELASCO FOR WHAT I HAD BECOME... BUT I... I CHOSE IT. I MUST HAVE.
NO ONE MADE ME MURDER MY BEST FRIENDS.
SHE'S POPPED HER CORK!
ILLYANA, YOU'RE WRONG. YOU'RE CRAZY.
THE X-MEN ARE DEAD, NOW, SURE, BUT THEY DIED ON EARTH... AND ONLY RECENTLY.
AND SELFRIEND- NIGHTCRAWLER AND KITTY ARE STILL ALIVE. YOU CANNOT HAVE KILLED THEM.
YOU'RE OUR FRIEND. YOU COULDN'T HAVE! YOU DIDN'T... DID YOU?

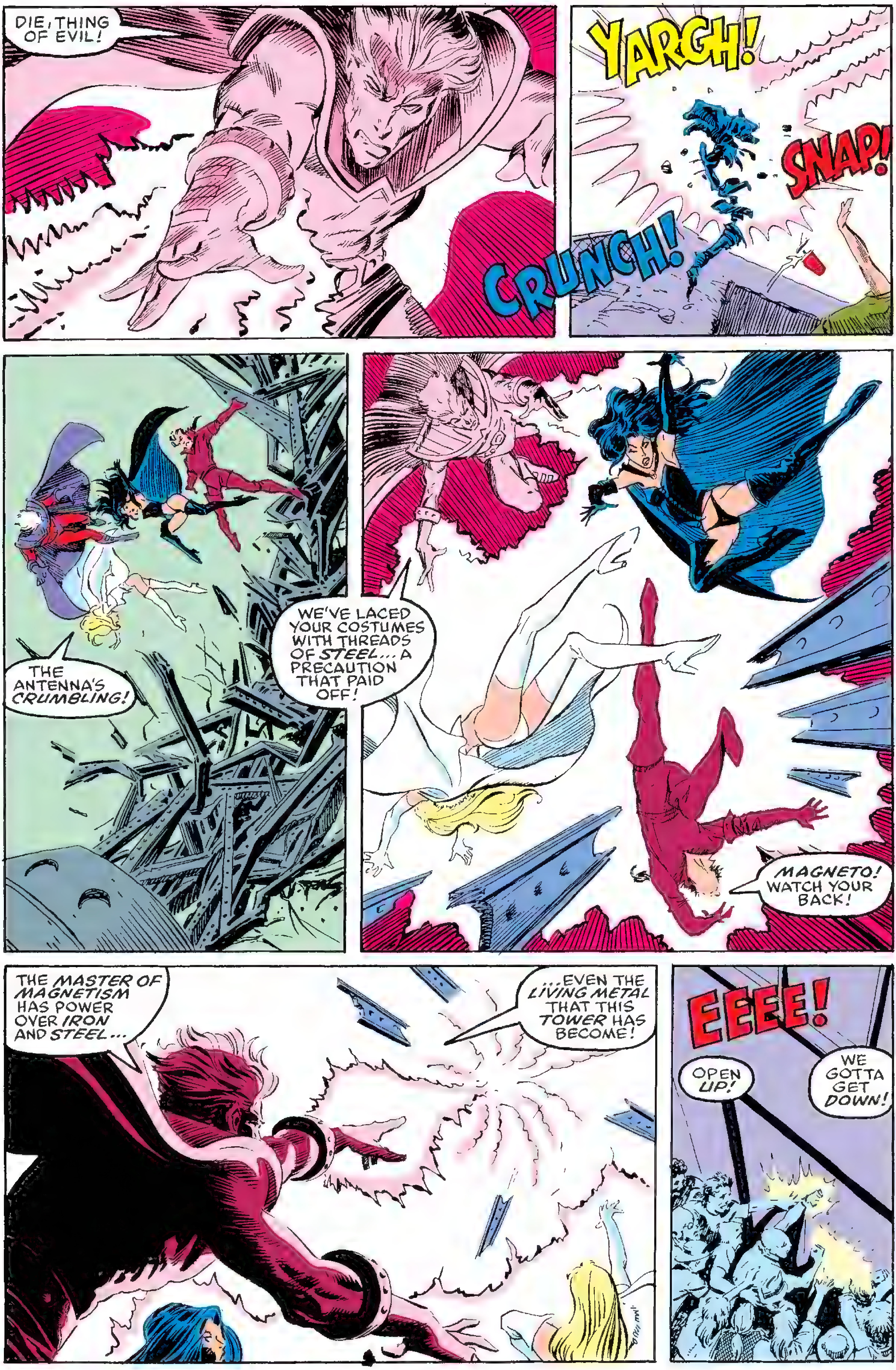

OH, YES.
TIME IS DIFFERENT HERE, YOU SEE, AND ALTERNATE CHOICES MEAN ALTERNATE TIMELINES AND ALTERNATE PEOPLE ARE CREATED.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN...
I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICES ...THE ONES THAT LET ME LIVE...AND LED ME BACK TO EARTH...
...WHILE THE OTHERS WERE TRAPPED HERE ...AND DIED.
YOU SOUND ALMOST... PROUD OF YOURSELF.
SOMETIMES, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, PEOPLE DIE. BUT MURDER, ILLYANA?! FOR ANY REASON?
IT'S THIS TERRIBLE PLACE. THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT WHEN WE'RE HOME. PLEASE...! LET'S GO HOME!
WHY...DIDN'T YOU TELL US THIS BEFORE? WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS NOW? IT CAN'T BE TRUE. IT CAN'T.
ILLYANA IS HOME!
DEMONS!
THERE THEY ARE!
MASTER TRACED THEM HERE!
GET THEM!
NO!

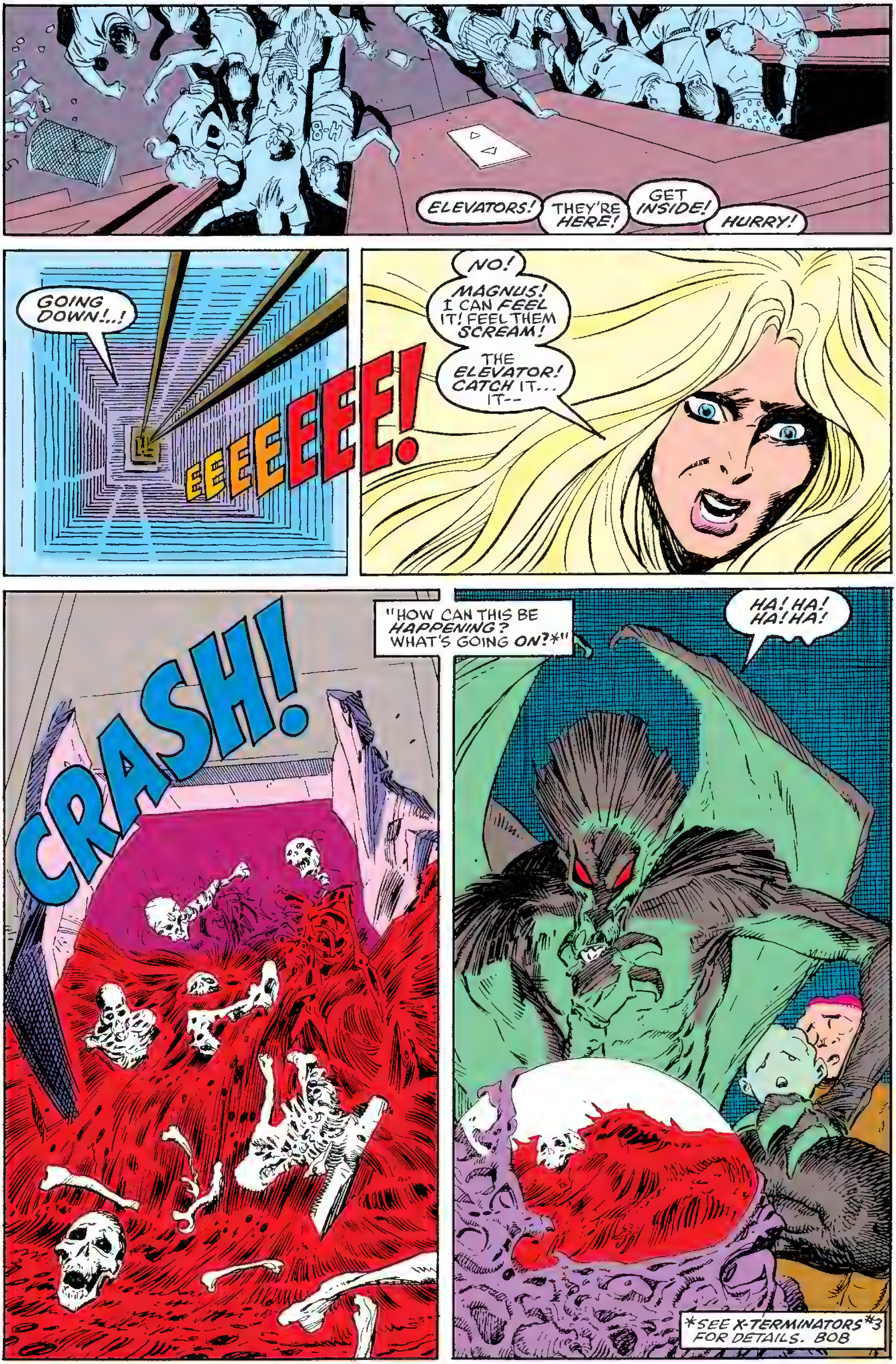

NOOO! WHERE... WHERE ARE WEEEEEE?
WHAT...?
COLOSSUS... MY BROTHER. YOU SEE... IT'S ALL TRUE, ALL OF IT. BUT DON'T WORRY, RAHNE. I DIDN'T KILL HIM. S'YM DID.
NO. IT CAN'T BE. IT--
QUIT TORTURING HER, ILLYANA. RAHNE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.
WHAT--?
EEEEEE!
A LITTLE GIRL. S'YM'S AFTER HER.
C'MERE, SWEETIE. S'YM WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!
S'YM DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU WON'T SMILE AT HIM.
S'YM DOESN'T LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE.

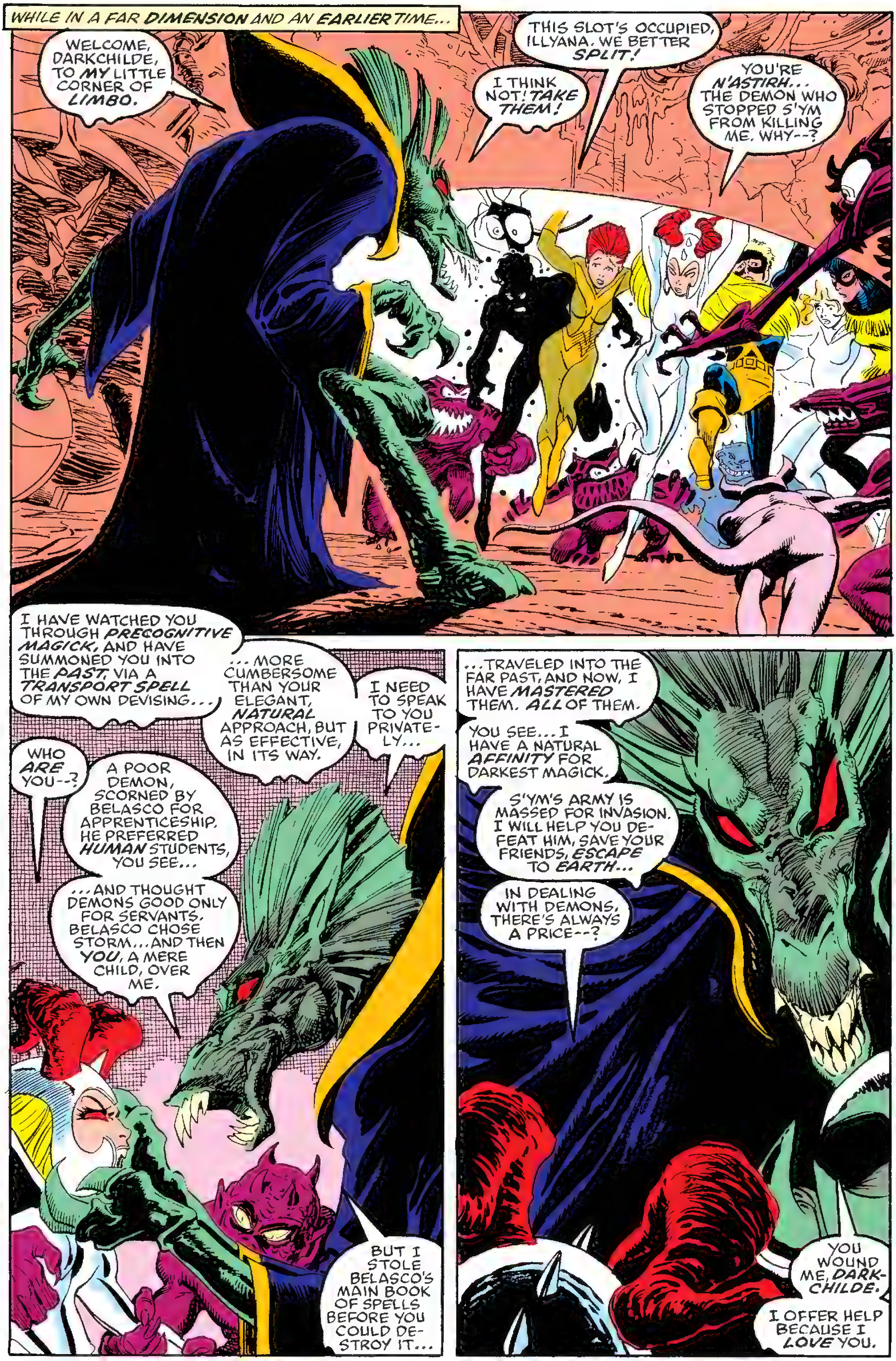
RAHNE-- *STOP!*
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ILLYANA? HAVE YOU GONE *MAD?* SHE'S JUST A WEE *CHILD,* AN INNOCENT *BABY.*
WE HAVE TO *SAVE* HER?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND *ANYTHING?* THAT... BABY IS *ME,* THE WAY I WAS WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE.
DURING THAT LAST JUMP, WE TELEPORTED IN *TIME,* AS WELL AS SPACE, INTO THE *PAST. MY* PAST.
S'YM'S... *PUNISHING* ME FOR SOME... IMAGINED TRANSGRESSION.
HE DID THAT WHENEVER HE COULD *CATCH* ME. I REMEMBER. I... DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER.
"AND WE *CAN'T* STOP HIM, DON'T YOU SEE? WE HAVE TO LEAVE HER... *ME*... TO LEARN WHAT I CAN FROM THIS...
"... A LESSON IN *HATRED*... SO I'LL BE AROUND TO DEFEAT *BELASCO* ... AND BECOME THIS... *MONSTER* THAT I AM.
"SO THAT I'LL LEARN TO CONTROL THE *STEPPING DISCS* AND... AND MAYBE SEND YOU *HOME!*"
THAT'S... TOO HIGH A PRICE TA PAY.
SELFRIEND... YOU SPEAK OF SENDING ONLY US TO EARTH...
... BUT EARTH IS *YOUR* HOME, TOO!
IS IT?
S'YM NEVER *KILLED* ME... AND HE *COULD* HAVE, SO EASILY.
I... WONDER *WHY.*
COME ON, RAHNE. LET'S GO. I... DON'T THINK... WHAT'S COMING... IS SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO WATCH.

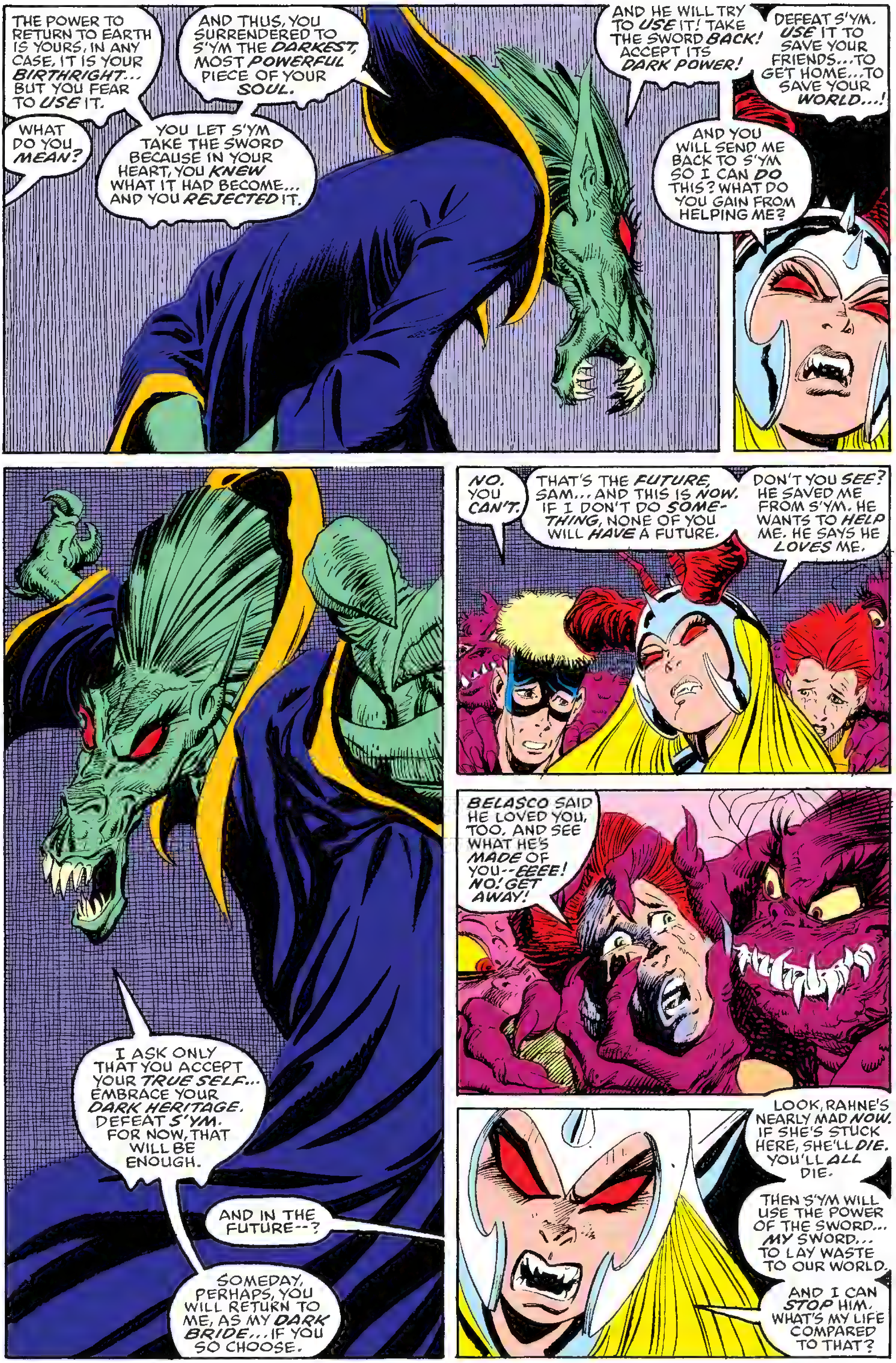

ZZZRANG!
ILLYANA, LOOK!
THE GIRL-CHILD MUST REMAIN ALIVE!
WHO'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. JUST... A DEMON. I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE.
BUT I CAN FEEL HIS POWER. NEARLY AS POWERFUL AS BELASCO WAS. POTENTIALLY AS POWERFUL AS ME.
N'ASTIRH! REBEL... YOU DARE TO THREATEN LORD BELASCO'S GUARD?
I THREATEN THE HUMAN SORCERER'S CRINGING LACKEY!
WHAM!
'TIS HORRID. THEY'RE TEARING EACH OTHER APART!
I HAD SUCH TERRIBLE THOUGHTS, ILLYANA ...THAT YOU WERE A MURDERER AND CONSORTED WILLINGLY WITH DEMONS...
...THAT IT WAS YOUR FAULT WE WERE HERE.
BUT YOU WERE AN INNOCENT BABY WHEN YOU CAME. TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND. NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT.
AND YOU ENDURED THIS HORROR, DAY AFTER DAY... FOR SEVEN YEARS.
OH, ILLYANA, PLEASE, EVEN IF IT MEANS WE STAY HERE... LET US SAVE YOU.
THERE!
NO!

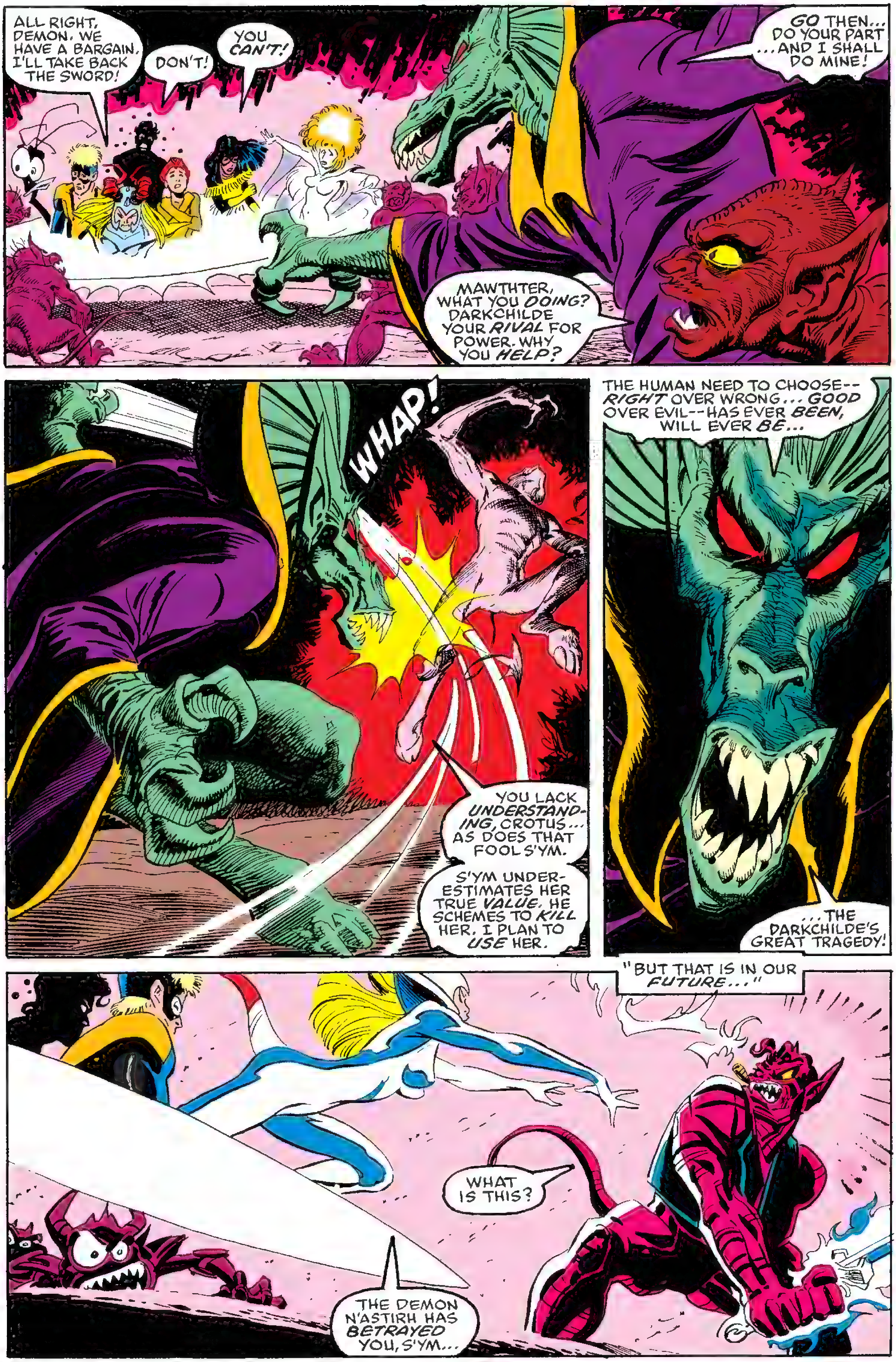

WHILE HERE AND NOW...
IT'S GROWING...
...THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IS GROWING.
BUT...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... ISN'T IT, MAGNUS?
WHEN SHAW SUMMONED THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INNER CIRCLE, MISS FROST, I ADMIT I CAME RELUCTANTLY.
MY STUDENTS WERE MISSING AND I THOUGHT SHAW WAS EXAGGERATING THE PROBLEM. BUT...
IT'S ALMOST PALPABLE, ISN'T IT? EVEN WITHOUT MY TELEPATHIC POWER, I'M CERTAIN I WOULD FEEL IT.
SOMETHING IN THE AIR. SOMETHING... EVIL.
THE TOURISTS ON THE OBSERVATION DECK BELOW SEEM MORE DISTURBED BY THE WEATHER...
DIDN'T KNOW WE'D BE SO HIGH. TOO BAD 'BOUT TH' HAZE.
IF IT'D JUST LET UP, BET I COULD SEE ALL THE WAY TA--
YAARGH!
MY EYES! MY EYES!
MY EYES, NOW!
LIKE 'EM?
BLINK! BLINK!


DIE, THING OF EVIL!
YARGH!
SNAP!
CRUNCH!
THE ANTENNA'S *CRUMBLING!*
WE'VE LACED YOUR COSTUMES WITH THREADS OF *STEEL*... A PRECAUTION THAT PAID OFF!
MAGNETO! WATCH YOUR BACK!
THE *MASTER OF MAGNETISM* HAS POWER OVER *IRON* AND *STEEL*...
...EVEN THE *LIVING METAL* THAT THIS *TOWER* HAS BECOME!
EEEE!
OPEN *UP!*
WE GOTTA GET *DOWN!*

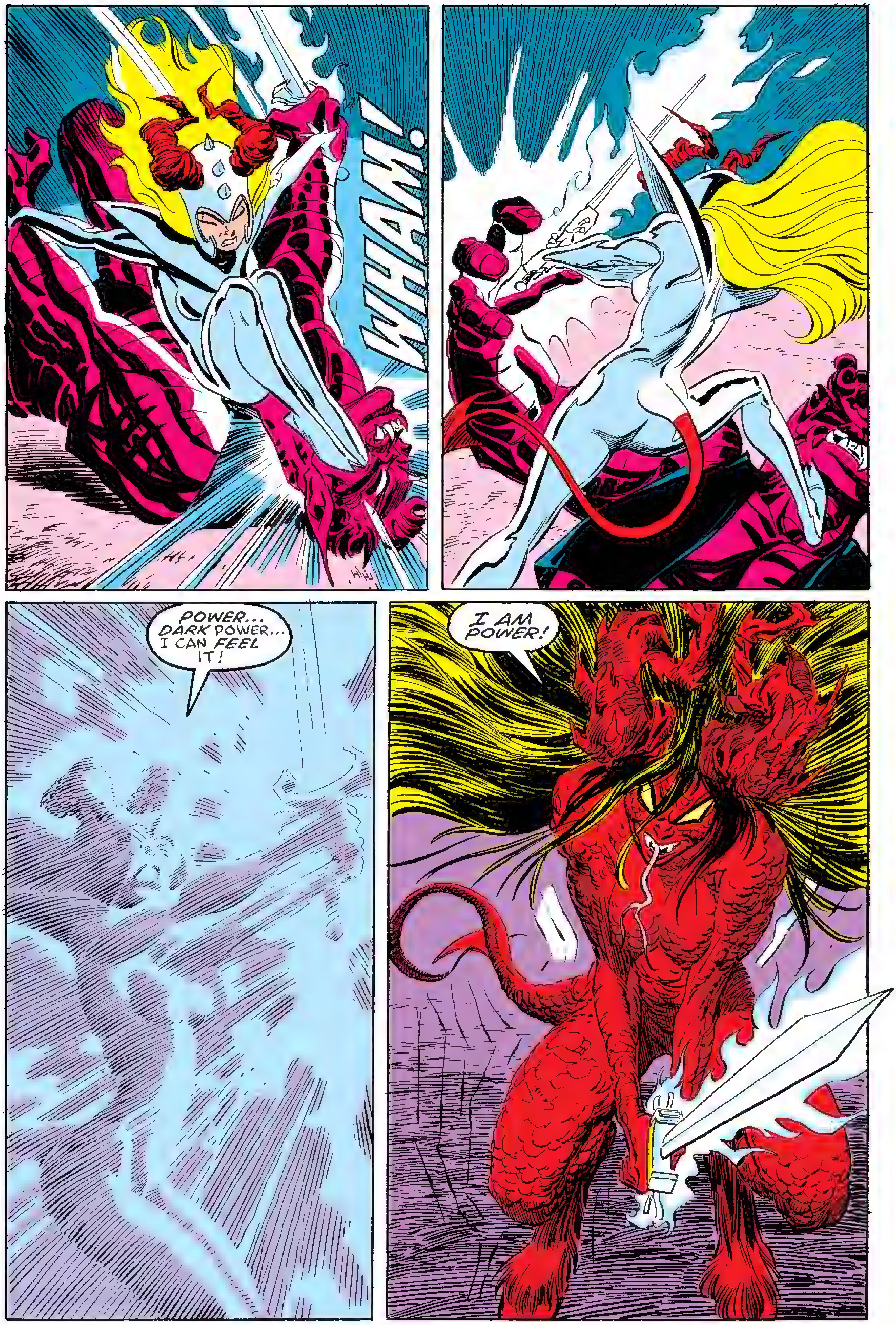

ELEVATORS!
THEY'RE HERE!
GET INSIDE!
HURRY!
GOING DOWN!..!
EEEEEEE!
NO!
MAGNUS! I CAN FEEL IT! FEEL THEM SCREAM!
THE ELEVATOR! CATCH IT... IT--
CRASH!
"HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING? WHAT'S GOING ON?*"
HA! HA! HA! HA!
*SEE X-TERMINATORS #3 FOR DETAILS. BOB

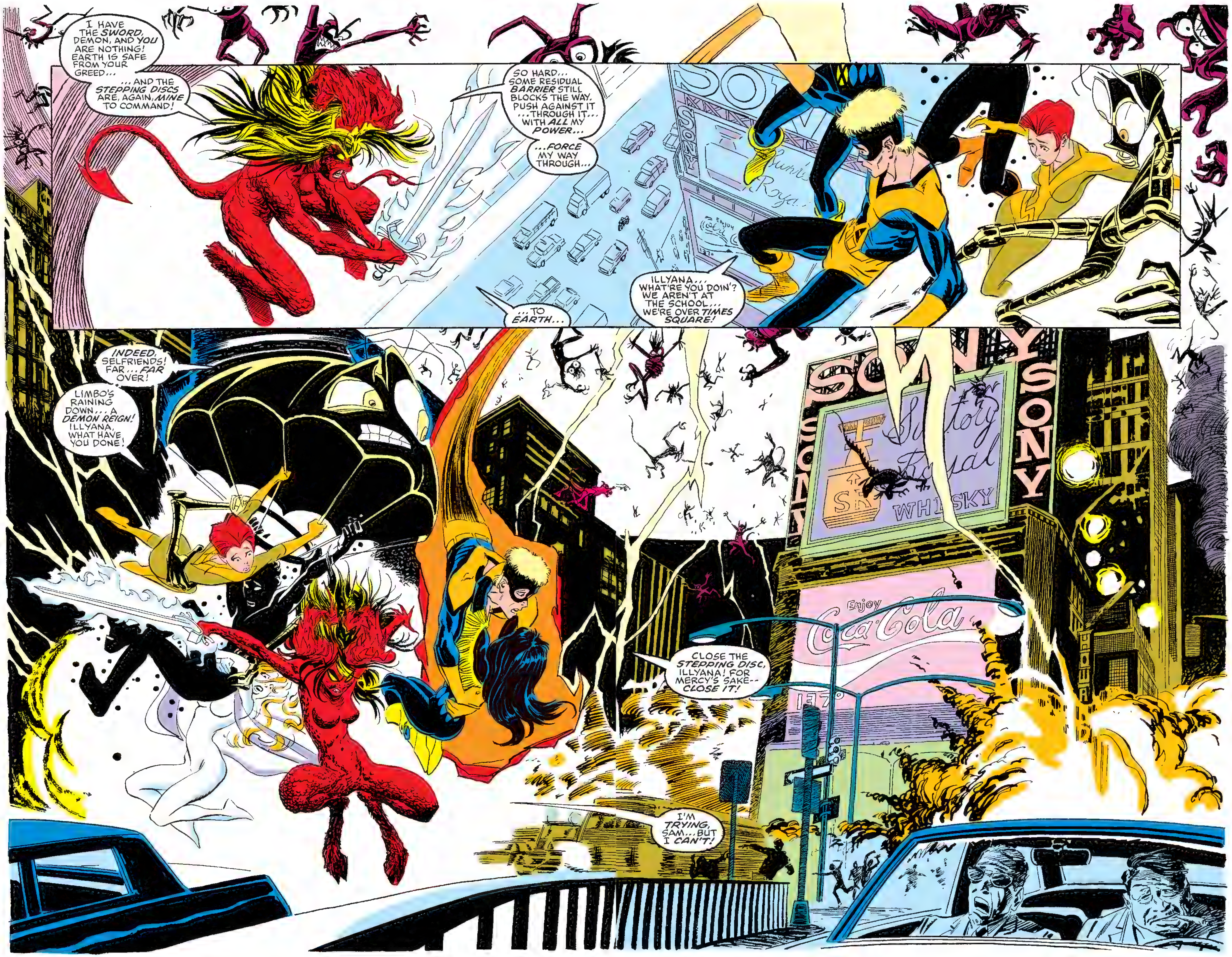

WHILE IN A FAR DIMENSION AND AN EARLIER TIME...
WELCOME, DARKCHILDE, TO MY LITTLE CORNER OF LIMBO.
I THINK NOT! TAKE THEM!
THIS SLOT'S OCCUPIED, ILLYANA. WE BETTER SPLIT!
YOU'RE N'ASTIRH... THE DEMON WHO STOPPED S'YM FROM KILLING ME. WHY--?
I HAVE WATCHED YOU THROUGH PRECOGNITIVE MAGICK, AND HAVE SUMMONED YOU INTO THE PAST, VIA A TRANSPORT SPELL OF MY OWN DEVISING...
...MORE CUMBERSOME THAN YOUR ELEGANT, NATURAL APPROACH, BUT AS EFFECTIVE, IN ITS WAY.
I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY...
WHO ARE YOU--?
A POOR DEMON, SCORNED BY BELASCO FOR APPRENTICESHIP. HE PREFERRED HUMAN STUDENTS, YOU SEE...
...AND THOUGHT DEMONS GOOD ONLY FOR SERVANTS. BELASCO CHOSE STORM...AND THEN YOU, A MERE CHILD, OVER ME.
BUT I STOLE BELASCO'S MAIN BOOK OF SPELLS BEFORE YOU COULD DESTROY IT...
...TRAVELED INTO THE FAR PAST, AND NOW, I HAVE MASTERED THEM. ALL OF THEM.
YOU SEE... I HAVE A NATURAL AFFINITY FOR DARKEST MAGICK.
S'YM'S ARMY IS MASSED FOR INVASION. I WILL HELP YOU DEFEAT HIM, SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, ESCAPE TO EARTH...
IN DEALING WITH DEMONS, THERE'S ALWAYS A PRICE--?
YOU WOUND ME, DARKCHILDE.
I OFFER HELP BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

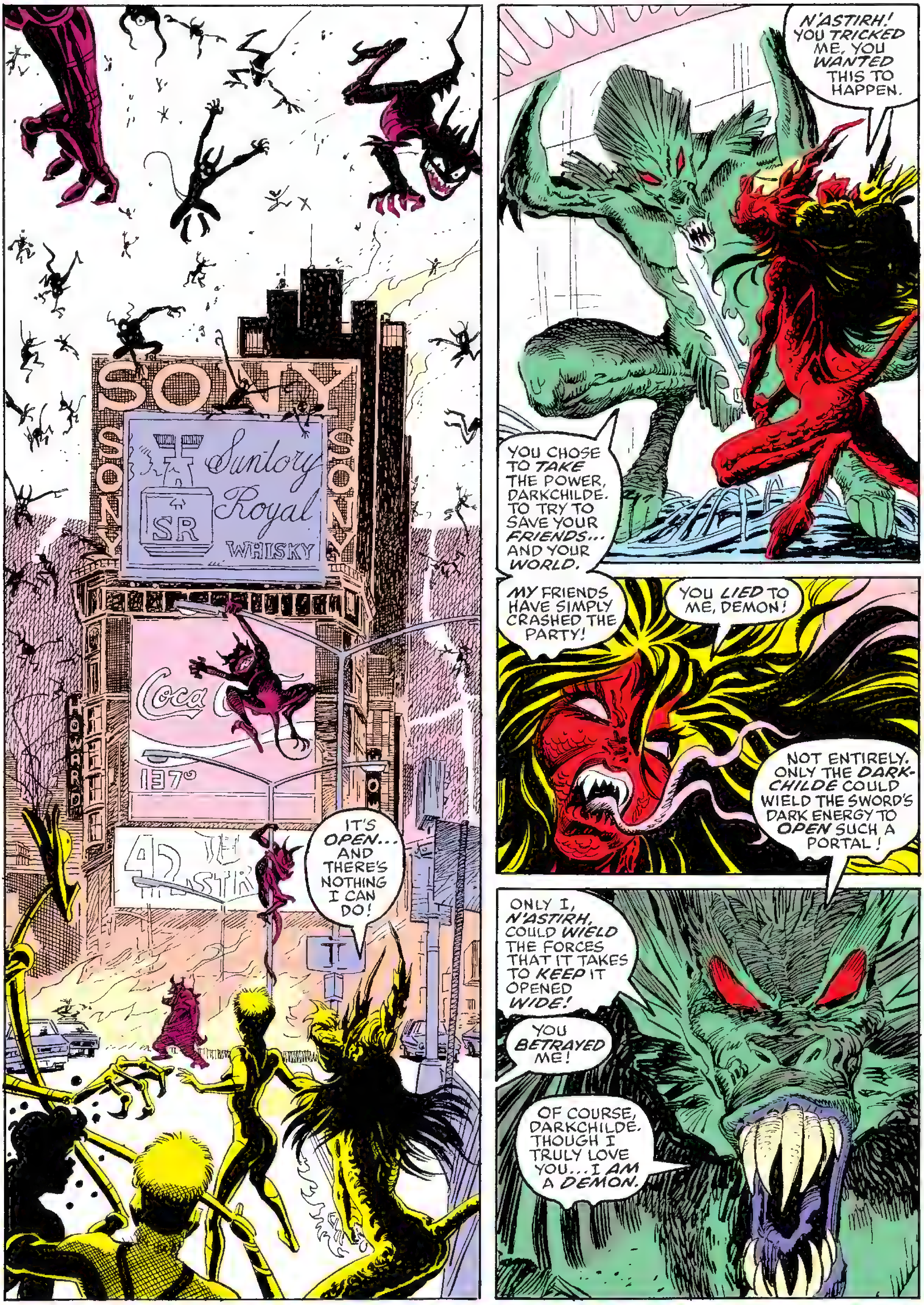

THE POWER TO RETURN TO EARTH IS YOURS, IN ANY CASE. IT IS YOUR BIRTHRIGHT... BUT YOU FEAR TO USE IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AND THUS, YOU SURRENDERED TO S'YM THE DARKEST, MOST POWERFUL PIECE OF YOUR SOUL.
YOU LET S'YM TAKE THE SWORD BECAUSE IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNEW WHAT IT HAD BECOME... AND YOU REJECTED IT.
AND HE WILL TRY TO USE IT! TAKE THE SWORD BACK! ACCEPT ITS DARK POWER!
DEFEAT S'YM. USE IT TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS...TO GET HOME...TO SAVE YOUR WORLD...!
AND YOU WILL SEND ME BACK TO S'YM SO I CAN DO THIS? WHAT DO YOU GAIN FROM HELPING ME?
I ASK ONLY THAT YOU ACCEPT YOUR TRUE SELF... EMBRACE YOUR DARK HERITAGE. DEFEAT S'YM. FOR NOW, THAT WILL BE ENOUGH.
AND IN THE FUTURE--?
SOMEDAY, PERHAPS, YOU WILL RETURN TO ME, AS MY DARK BRIDE... IF YOU SO CHOOSE.
NO. YOU CAN'T.
THAT'S THE FUTURE, SAM... AND THIS IS NOW. IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, NONE OF YOU WILL HAVE A FUTURE.
DON'T YOU SEE? HE SAVED ME FROM S'YM. HE WANTS TO HELP ME. HE SAYS HE LOVES ME.
BELASCO SAID HE LOVED YOU, TOO, AND SEE WHAT HE'S MADE OF YOU--EEEE! NO! GET AWAY!
LOOK, RAHNE'S NEARLY MAD NOW. IF SHE'S STUCK HERE, SHE'LL DIE. YOU'LL ALL DIE.
THEN S'YM WILL USE THE POWER OF THE SWORD... MY SWORD... TO LAY WASTE TO OUR WORLD.
AND I CAN STOP HIM. WHAT'S MY LIFE COMPARED TO THAT?


ALL RIGHT, DEMON. WE HAVE A BARGAIN. I'LL TAKE BACK THE SWORD!
DON'T!
YOU *CAN'T!*
GO THEN... DO YOUR PART ...AND I SHALL DO MINE!
MAWTHTER, WHAT YOU *DOING?* DARKCHILDE YOUR *RIVAL* FOR POWER. WHY YOU *HELP?*
WHAP!
YOU LACK *UNDERSTANDING,* CROTUS... AS DOES THAT FOOL S'YM.
S'YM UNDERESTIMATES HER TRUE *VALUE.* HE SCHEMES TO *KILL* HER. I PLAN TO *USE* HER.
THE HUMAN NEED TO CHOOSE--*RIGHT* OVER WRONG... *GOOD* OVER EVIL--HAS EVER *BEEN,* WILL EVER *BE*...
...THE DARKCHILDE'S GREAT TRAGEDY!
"BUT THAT IS IN OUR *FUTURE*..."
WHAT IS THIS?
THE DEMON N'ASTIRH HAS *BETRAYED* YOU, S'YM...

KRAKOOM!
...AND DELIVERED YOU INTO MY *HANDS!*
C'MON, MUTIES! IF SHE'S GONNA *DO* IT WE MIGHT AS WELL *HELP!*
BETRAYED S'YM, HAS HE?
ZAPT!
SWISH!
WHAKT!


WHAM!
POWER... DARK POWER... I CAN FEEL IT!
I AM POWER!


I HAVE THE *SWORD*, DEMON, AND *YOU* ARE NOTHING! EARTH IS SAFE FROM YOUR GREED...
...AND THE *STEPPING DISCS* ARE, AGAIN, *MINE* TO COMMAND!
SO HARD... SOME RESIDUAL *BARRIER* STILL BLOCKS THE WAY. PUSH AGAINST IT ...THROUGH IT... WITH *ALL* MY *POWER*...
...*FORCE* MY WAY THROUGH...
...TO *EARTH*...
ILLYANA... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'? WE AREN'T AT THE SCHOOL... WE'RE OVER *TIMES SQUARE!*
SONY
INDEED, SELFRIENDS! FAR... *FAR* OVER!
LIMBO'S RAINING DOWN... A *DEMON REIGN!* ILLYANA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!
Suntory Royal WHISKY
Enjoy Coca-Cola
CLOSE THE *STEPPING DISC*, ILLYANA! FOR MERCY'S SAKE-- *CLOSE IT!*
I'M *TRYING*, SAM... BUT I *CAN'T!*


SONY
SONY
SONY
Suntory Royal
SR
WHISKY
Coca C
HOWARD
137°
42 TH STR
IT'S OPEN... AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
N'ASTIRH! YOU TRICKED ME. YOU WANTED THIS TO HAPPEN.
YOU CHOSE TO TAKE THE POWER, DARKCHILDE. TO TRY TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS... AND YOUR WORLD.
MY FRIENDS HAVE SIMPLY CRASHED THE PARTY!
YOU LIED TO ME, DEMON!
NOT ENTIRELY. ONLY THE DARKCHILDE COULD WIELD THE SWORD'S DARK ENERGY TO OPEN SUCH A PORTAL!
ONLY I, N'ASTIRH, COULD WIELD THE FORCES THAT IT TAKES TO KEEP IT OPENED WIDE!
YOU BETRAYED ME!
OF COURSE, DARKCHILDE. THOUGH I TRULY LOVE YOU... I AM A DEMON.

NEXT: **MANHATTAN TRANSFORMED!**

INFERNO IS HERE!

FOR INFERNO™ TO BEGIN,
THIRTEEN
CHILDREN
MUST DIE...

X-TERMINATORS™

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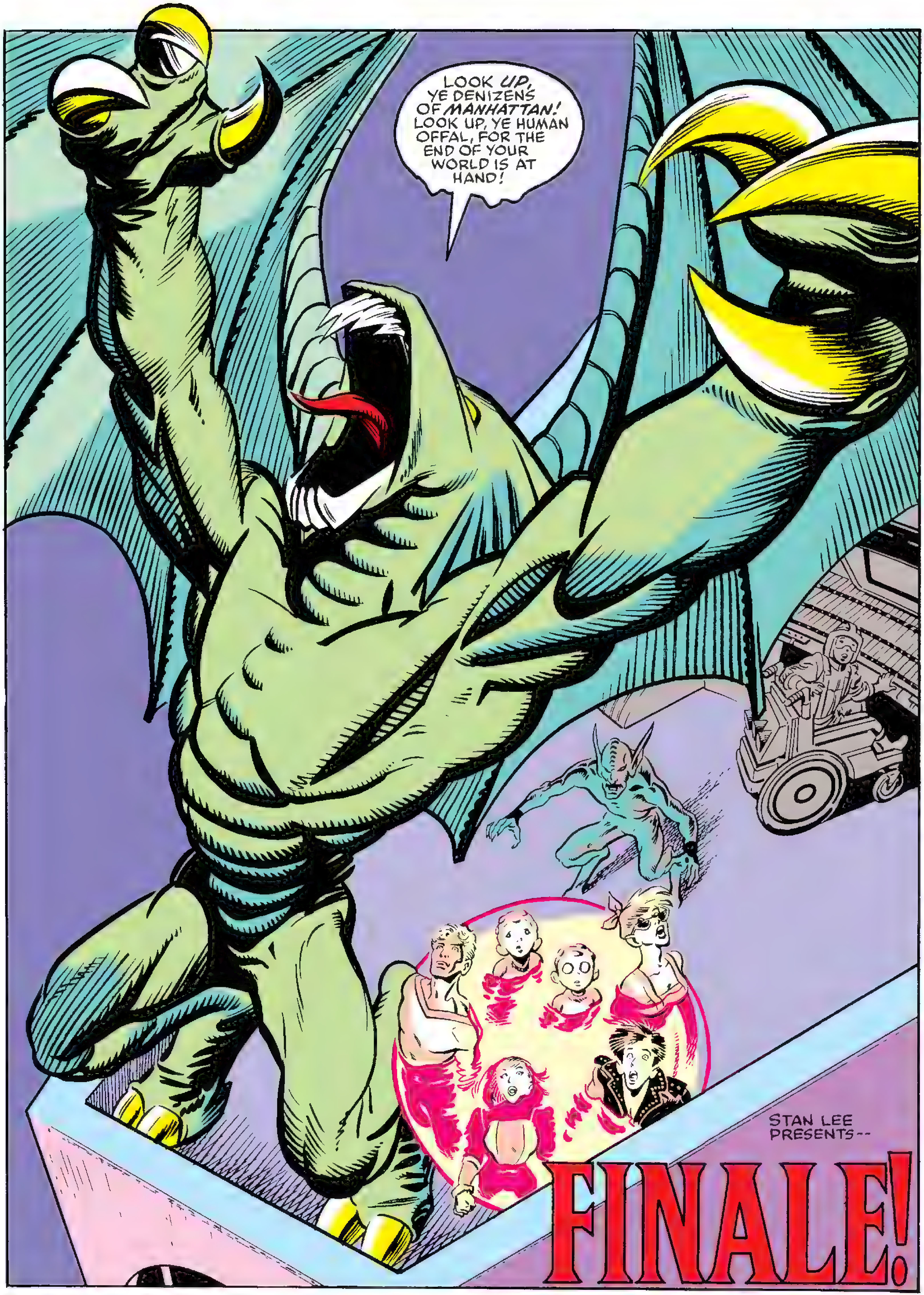
LOOK *UP*, YE DENIZENS OF *MANHATTAN!* LOOK UP, YE HUMAN OFFAL, FOR THE END OF YOUR WORLD IS AT HAND!
STAN LEE PRESENTS--
FINALE!

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
JON BOGDANOVE PENCILER
AL MILGROM INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
PETRA SCOTESE COLORIST
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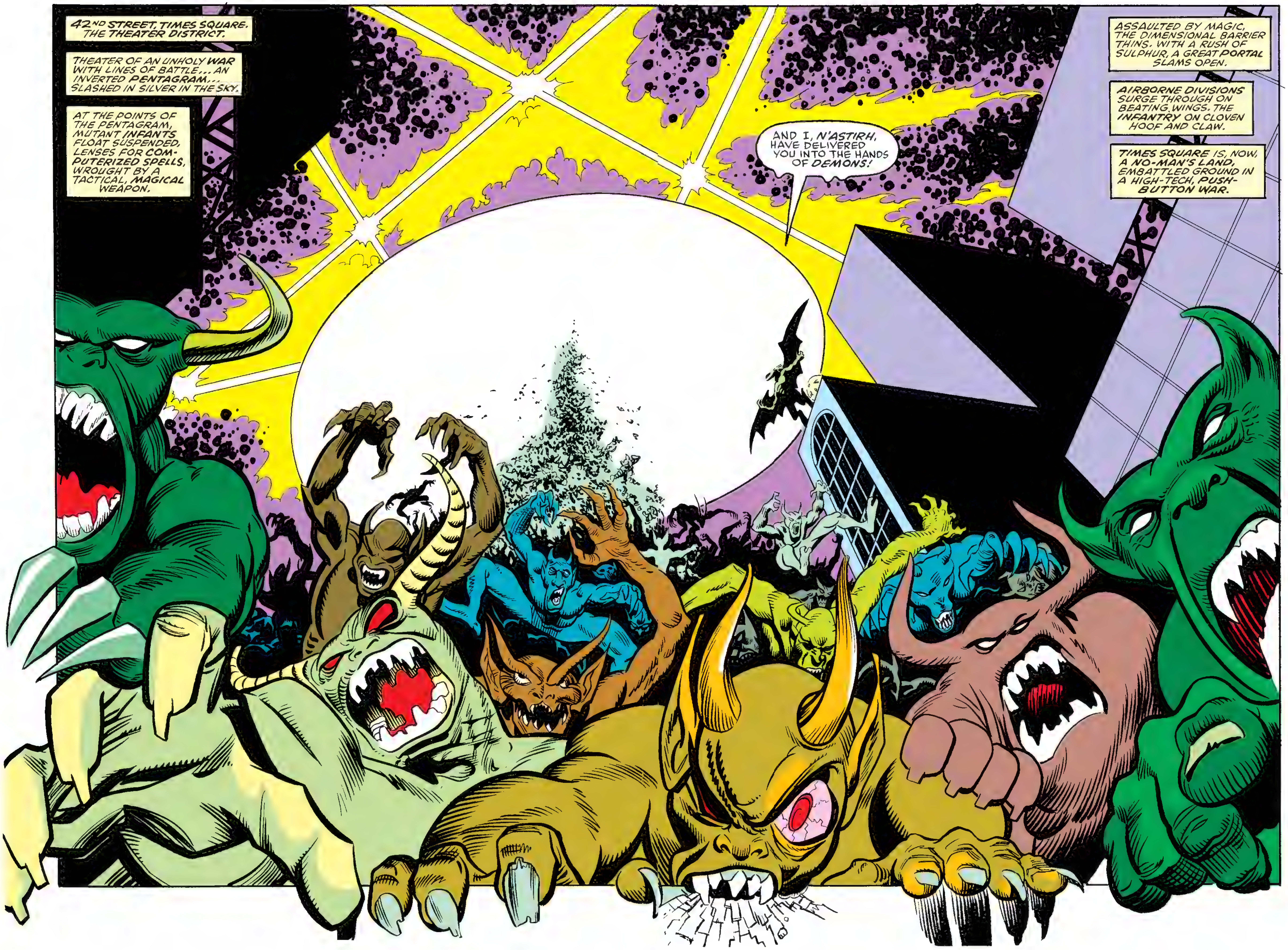
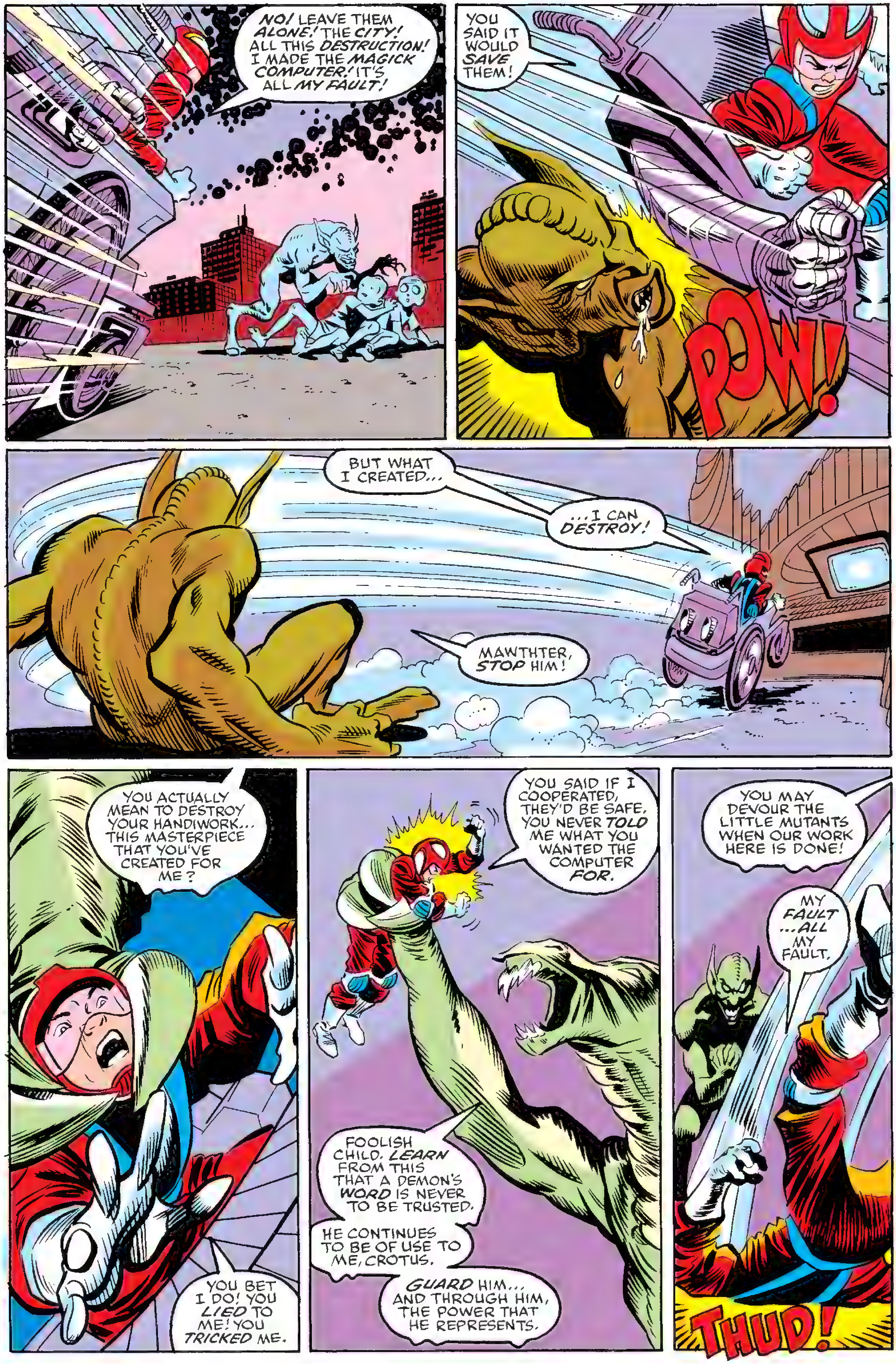
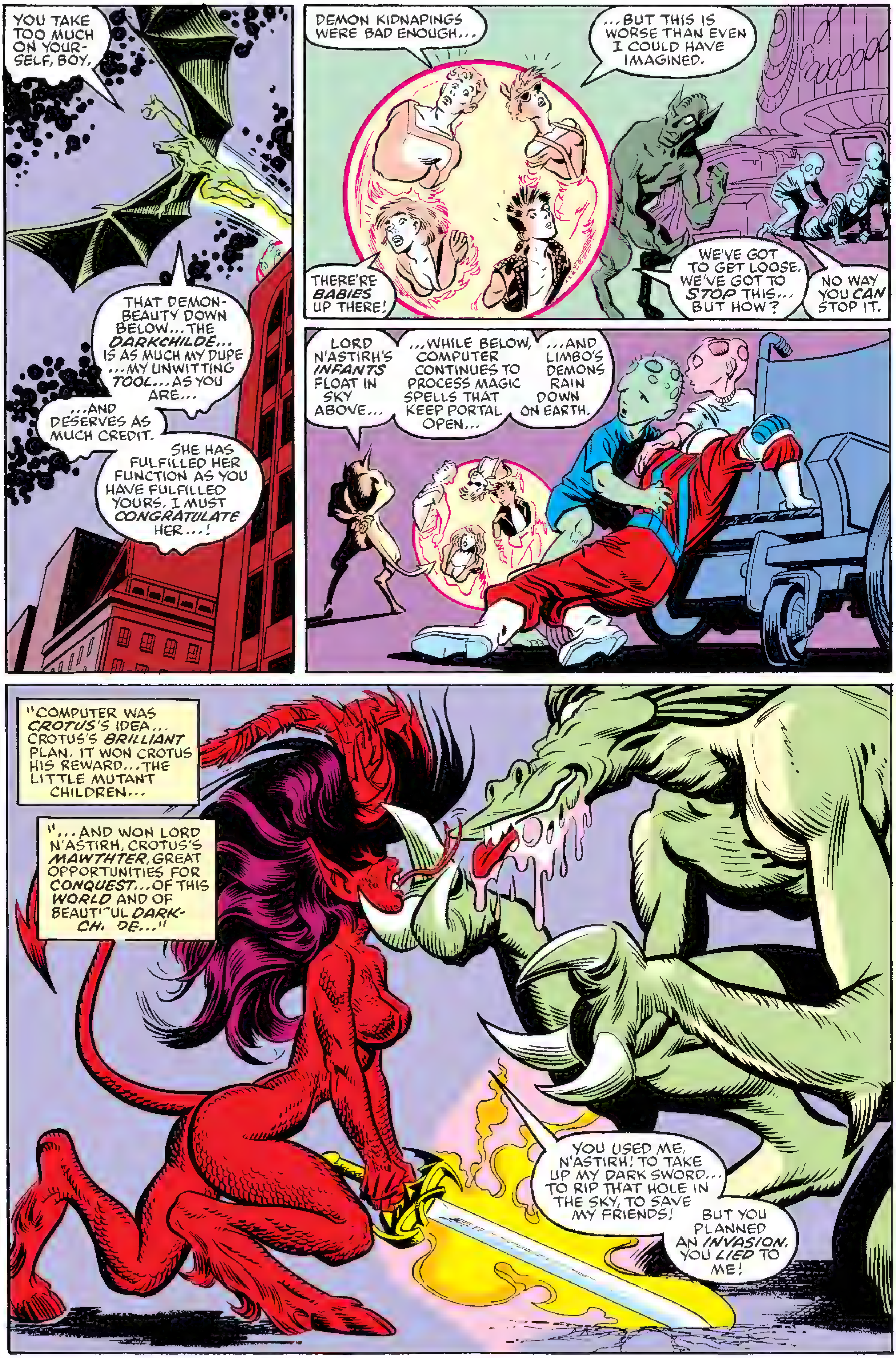
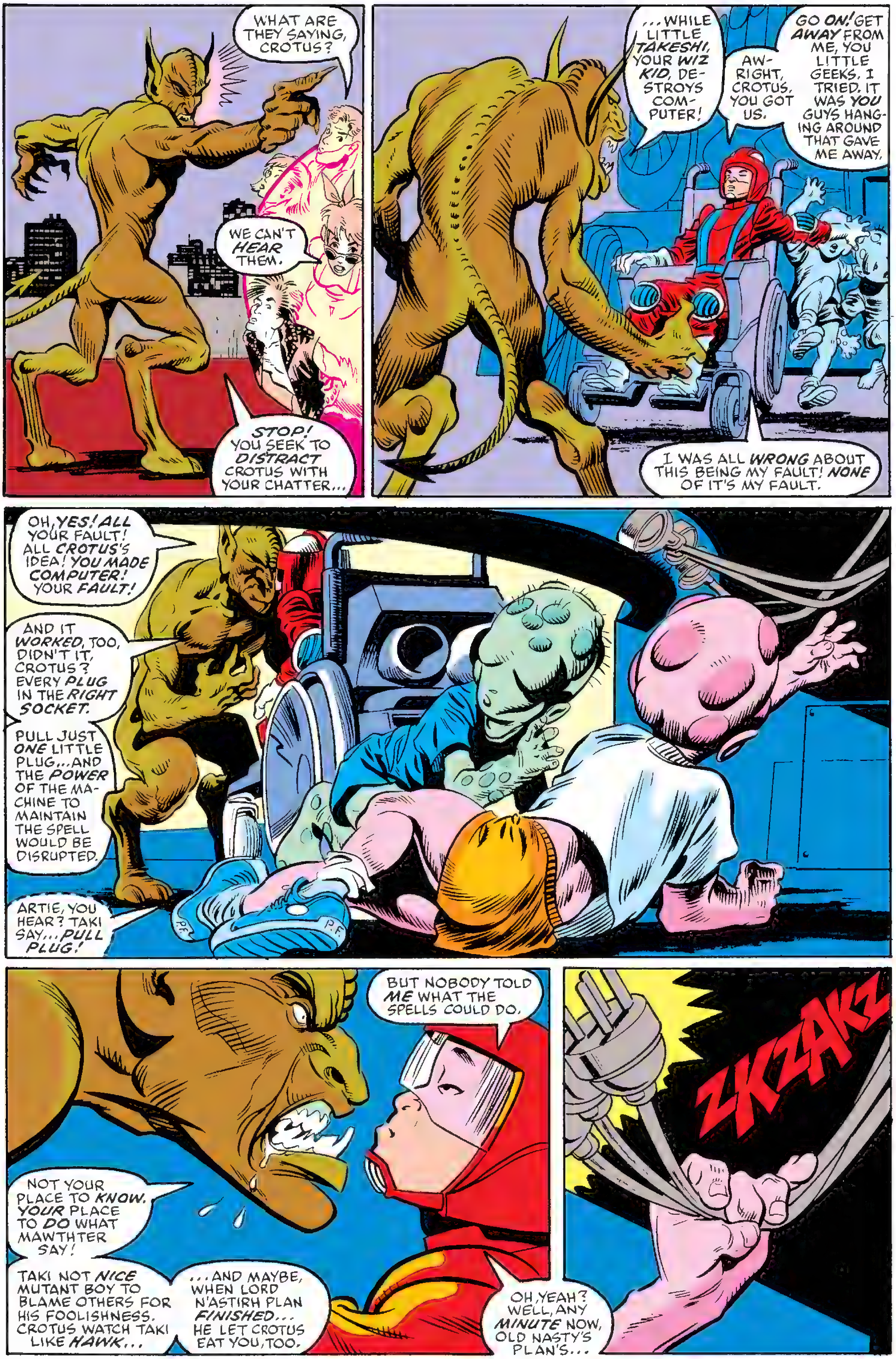
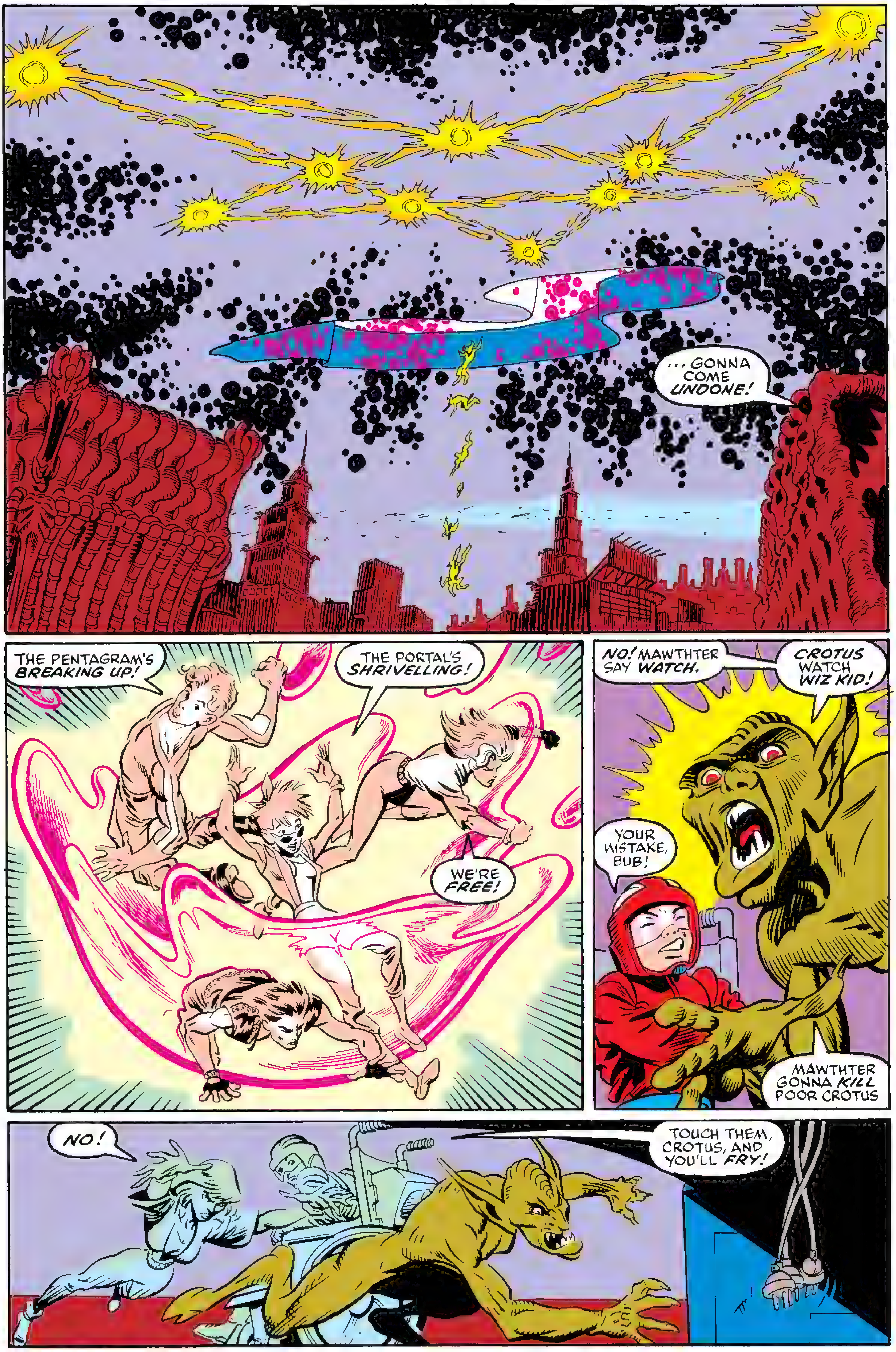

42ND STREET, TIMES SQUARE. THE THEATER DISTRICT.
THEATER OF AN UNHOLY WAR WITH LINES OF BATTLE... AN INVERTED PENTAGRAM... SLASHED IN SILVER IN THE SKY.
AT THE POINTS OF THE PENTAGRAM, MUTANT INFANTS FLOAT SUSPENDED, LENSES FOR COMPUTERIZED SPELLS, WROUGHT BY A TACTICAL, MAGICAL WEAPON.
AND I, N'ASTIRH, HAVE DELIVERED YOU INTO THE HANDS OF DEMONS!
ASSAULTED BY MAGIC, THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIER THINS. WITH A RUSH OF SULPHUR, A GREAT PORTAL SLAMS OPEN.
AIRBORNE DIVISIONS SURGE THROUGH ON BEATING WINGS. THE INFANTRY ON CLOVEN HOOF AND CLAW.
TIMES SQUARE IS, NOW, A NO-MAN'S LAND, EMBATTLED GROUND IN A HIGH-TECH, PUSH-BUTTON WAR.

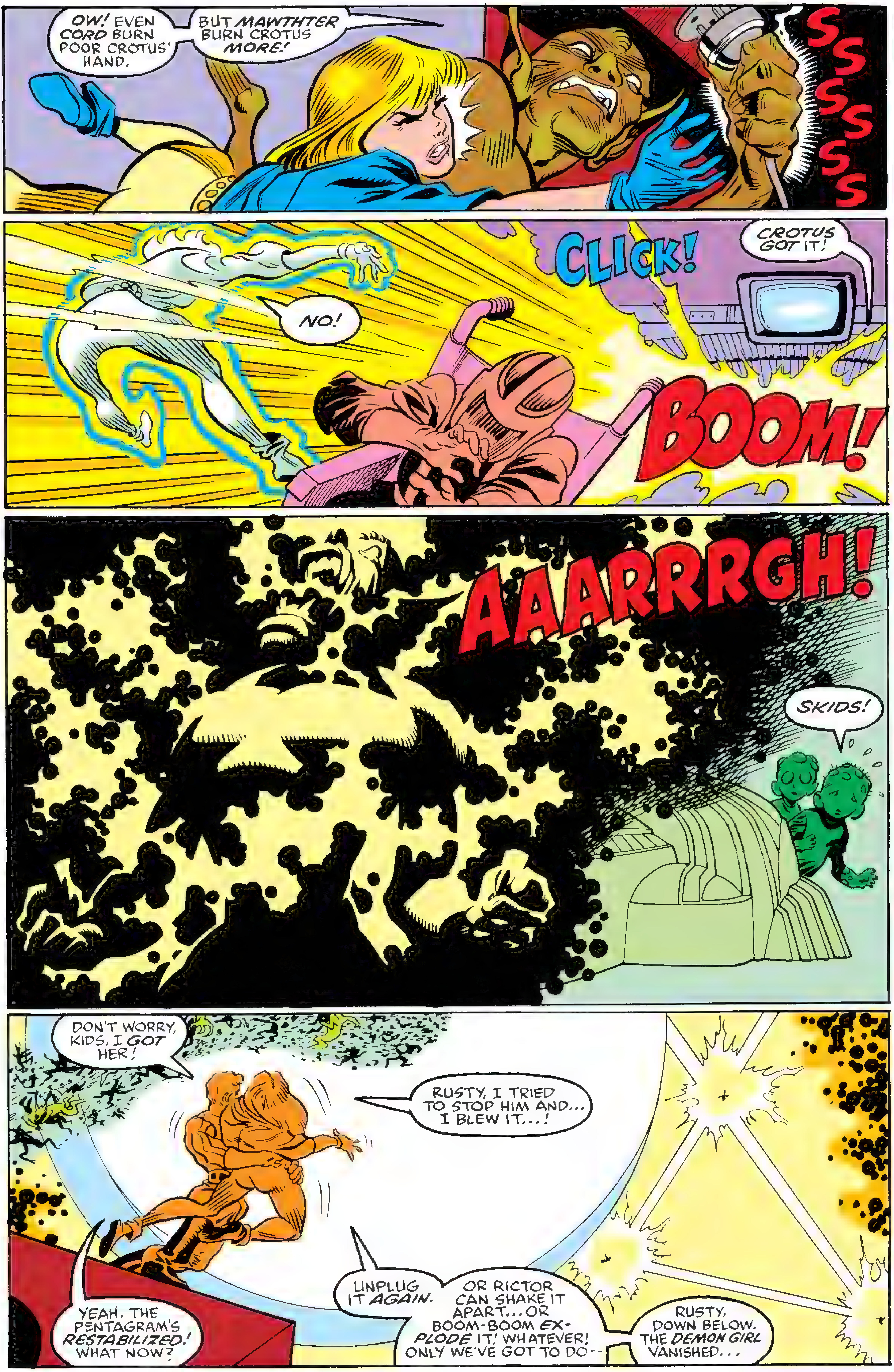
SONY
LOOK WHAT'S FALLING FROM THE DISC...!
KIDS... LIKE *US!*
NOT *MUCH* LIKE US! ONE OF THEM'S *BLACK* AND CRACKLES WITH POWER.
BLEVINS
DRUG
137°
42
HEY, LOOK! *THAT* GIRL HAS HORNS... AND *TAIL! KIDS* DON'T HAVE *TAILS!*
DEMONS! THEY MUST BE *DEMON* KIDS!
NO... THEY ARE *HUMANS, MUTANTS* LIKE YOURSELVES...
...BORN WITH THE ALTERED GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES RISE TO PARA-HUMAN ABILITIES.
THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE *NEW MUTANTS,* AND, LIKE YOU, ARE HERE AT MY BEHEST.
BUT, MAWTHTER, YOUR GREAT PLAN COMES TO FRUITION BECAUSE OF LOYAL CROTUS' HELP.
AS I PROMISED, LOYAL CROTUS, THEY ARE *YOURS.*
WILL YOU NOT GIVE POOR, HUNGRY CROTUS LITTLE MUTANT *CHILDREN* TO EAT?

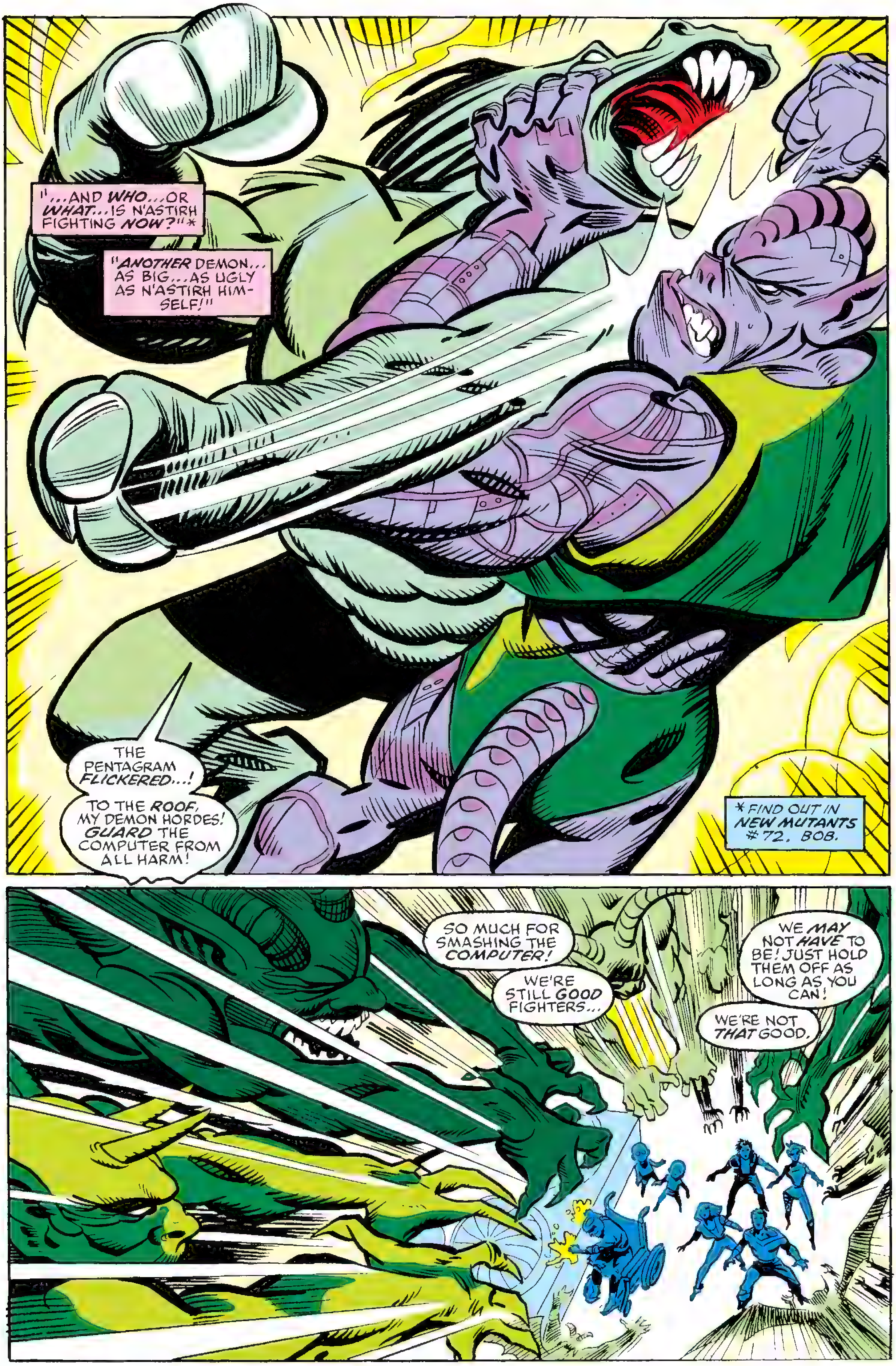

NO! LEAVE THEM ALONE! THE CITY! ALL THIS DESTRUCTION! I MADE THE MAGICK COMPUTER! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
YOU SAID IT WOULD SAVE THEM!
POW!
BUT WHAT I CREATED...
...I CAN DESTROY!
MAWTHTER, STOP HIM!
...
YOU ACTUALLY MEAN TO DESTROY YOUR HANDIWORK... THIS MASTERPIECE THAT YOU'VE CREATED FOR ME?
YOU BET I DO! YOU LIED TO ME! YOU TRICKED ME.
YOU SAID IF I COOPERATED, THEY'D BE SAFE. YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOU WANTED THE COMPUTER FOR.
FOOLISH CHILD. LEARN FROM THIS THAT A DEMON'S WORD IS NEVER TO BE TRUSTED.
HE CONTINUES TO BE OF USE TO ME, CROTUS.
GUARD HIM... AND THROUGH HIM, THE POWER THAT HE REPRESENTS.
YOU MAY DEVOUR THE LITTLE MUTANTS WHEN OUR WORK HERE IS DONE!
MY FAULT ...ALL MY FAULT.
THUD!

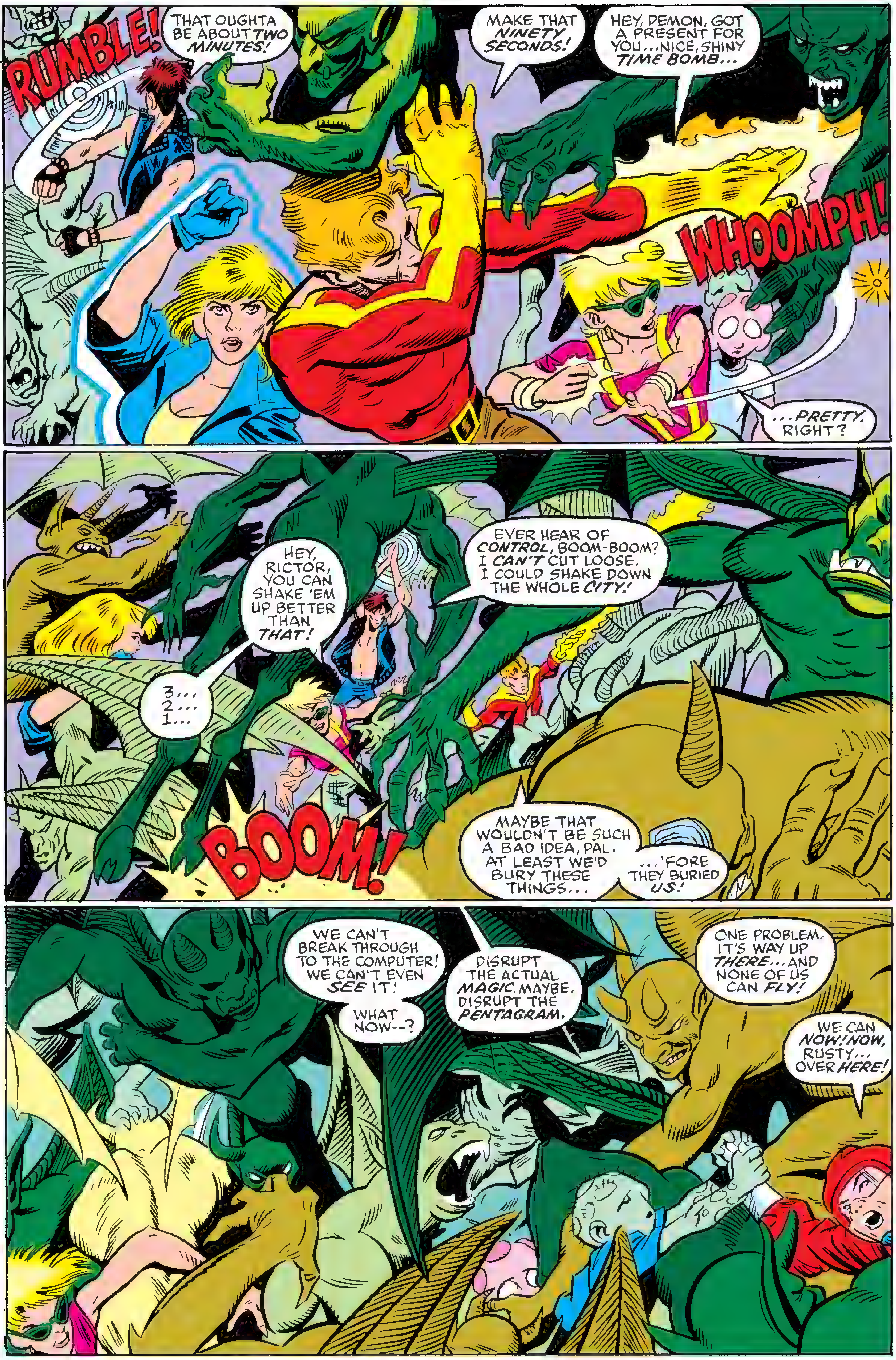

YOU TAKE TOO MUCH ON YOURSELF, BOY.
THAT DEMON-BEAUTY DOWN BELOW... THE *DARKCHILDE*... IS AS MUCH MY DUPE ...MY UNWITTING *TOOL*... AS YOU ARE...
...AND DESERVES AS MUCH CREDIT.
SHE HAS FULFILLED HER FUNCTION AS YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOURS. I MUST *CONGRATULATE* HER...!
DEMON KIDNAPINGS WERE BAD ENOUGH...
...BUT THIS IS WORSE THAN EVEN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.
THERE'RE *BABIES* UP THERE!
WE'VE GOT TO GET LOOSE. WE'VE GOT TO *STOP* THIS... BUT HOW?
NO WAY YOU *CAN* STOP IT.
LORD N'ASTIRH'S *INFANTS* FLOAT IN SKY ABOVE...
...WHILE BELOW, COMPUTER CONTINUES TO PROCESS MAGIC SPELLS THAT KEEP PORTAL OPEN...
...AND LIMBO'S DEMONS RAIN DOWN ON EARTH.
"COMPUTER WAS *CROTUS*'S IDEA... CROTUS'S *BRILLIANT* PLAN. IT WON CROTUS HIS REWARD... THE LITTLE MUTANT CHILDREN...
"...AND WON LORD N'ASTIRH, CROTUS'S *MAWTHTER*, GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR *CONQUEST*... OF THIS *WORLD* AND OF BEAUTIFUL *DARKCHILDE*..."
YOU USED ME, N'ASTIRH! TO TAKE UP MY DARK SWORD... TO RIP THAT HOLE IN THE SKY, TO SAVE MY FRIENDS!
BUT YOU PLANNED AN *INVASION*. YOU *LIED* TO ME!


WHAT ARE THEY SAYING, CROTUS?
WE CAN'T *HEAR* THEM.
STOP! YOU SEEK TO *DISTRACT* CROTUS WITH YOUR CHATTER...
...WHILE LITTLE *TAKESHI*, YOUR *WIZ KID*, DESTROYS COMPUTER!
AW-RIGHT, CROTUS, YOU GOT US.
GO *ON!* GET *AWAY* FROM ME, YOU LITTLE GEEKS. I TRIED. IT WAS *YOU* GUYS HANGING AROUND THAT GAVE ME AWAY.
I WAS ALL *WRONG* ABOUT THIS BEING MY FAULT! *NONE* OF IT'S MY FAULT.
OH, *YES! ALL* YOUR FAULT! ALL *CROTUS'S* IDEA! *YOU MADE COMPUTER! YOUR FAULT!*
AND IT *WORKED*, TOO, DIDN'T IT, CROTUS? EVERY *PLUG* IN THE *RIGHT SOCKET*.
PULL JUST *ONE* LITTLE PLUG...AND THE *POWER* OF THE MACHINE TO MAINTAIN THE SPELL WOULD BE DISRUPTED.
ARTIE, YOU HEAR? TAKI SAY...*PULL PLUG!*
P.F.
P.F.
BUT NOBODY TOLD *ME* WHAT THE SPELLS COULD DO.
NOT YOUR PLACE TO *KNOW*. *YOUR* PLACE TO *DO* WHAT MAWTHTER SAY!
TAKI NOT *NICE* MUTANT BOY TO BLAME OTHERS FOR HIS FOOLISHNESS. CROTUS WATCH TAKI LIKE *HAWK*...
...AND MAYBE, WHEN LORD N'ASTIRH PLAN *FINISHED*... HE LET CROTUS EAT YOU, TOO.
OH, YEAH? WELL, ANY *MINUTE* NOW, OLD NASTY'S PLAN'S...
ZKZAKZ

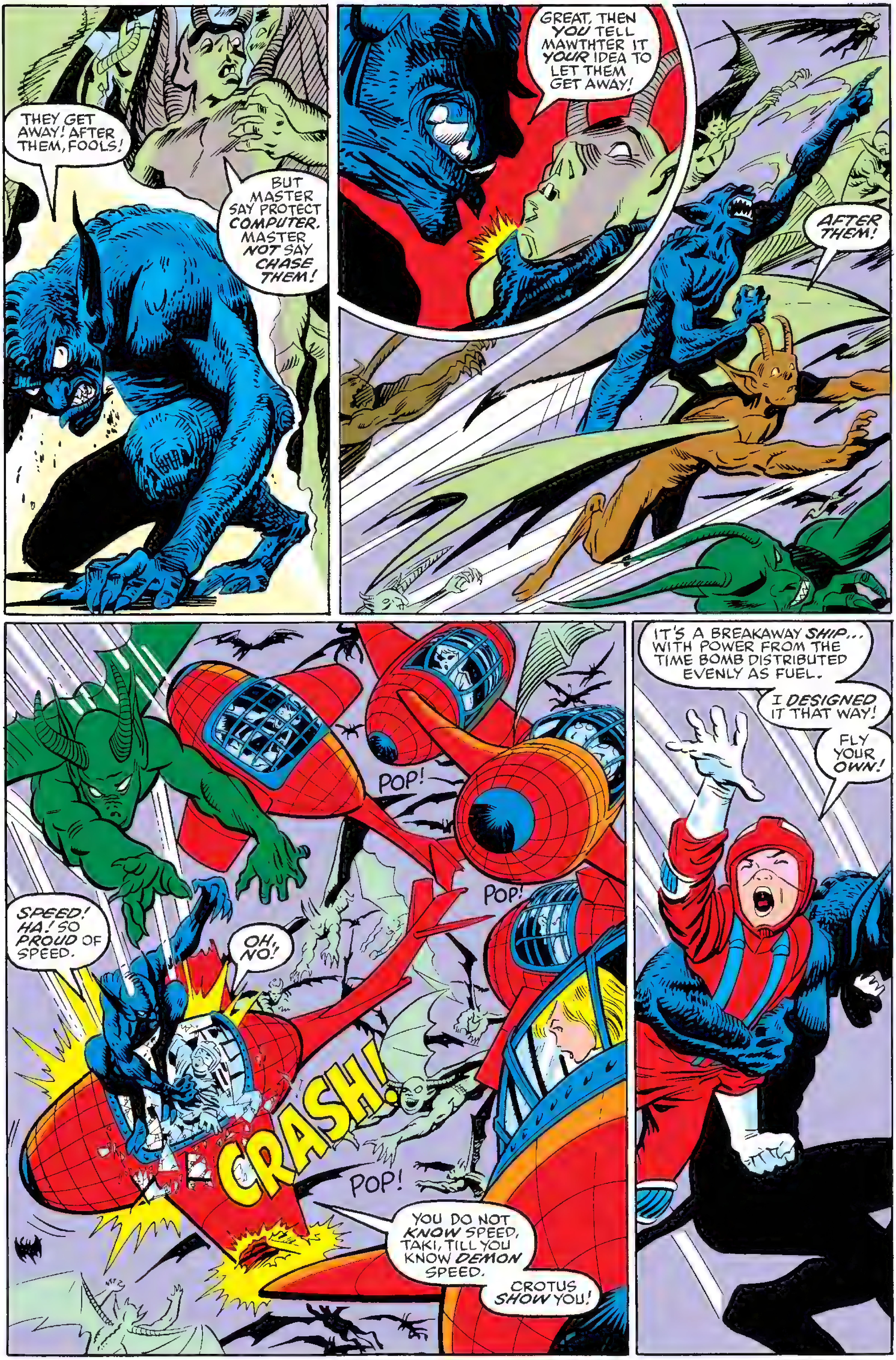

...GONNA COME *UNDONE!*
THE PENTAGRAM'S *BREAKING UP!*
THE PORTAL'S *SHRIVELLING!*
WE'RE *FREE!*
NO! MAWTHTER SAY *WATCH.*
CROTUS WATCH *WIZ KID!*
YOUR MISTAKE, BUB!
MAWTHTER GONNA *KILL* POOR CROTUS
NO!
TOUCH THEM, CROTUS, AND YOU'LL *FRY!*

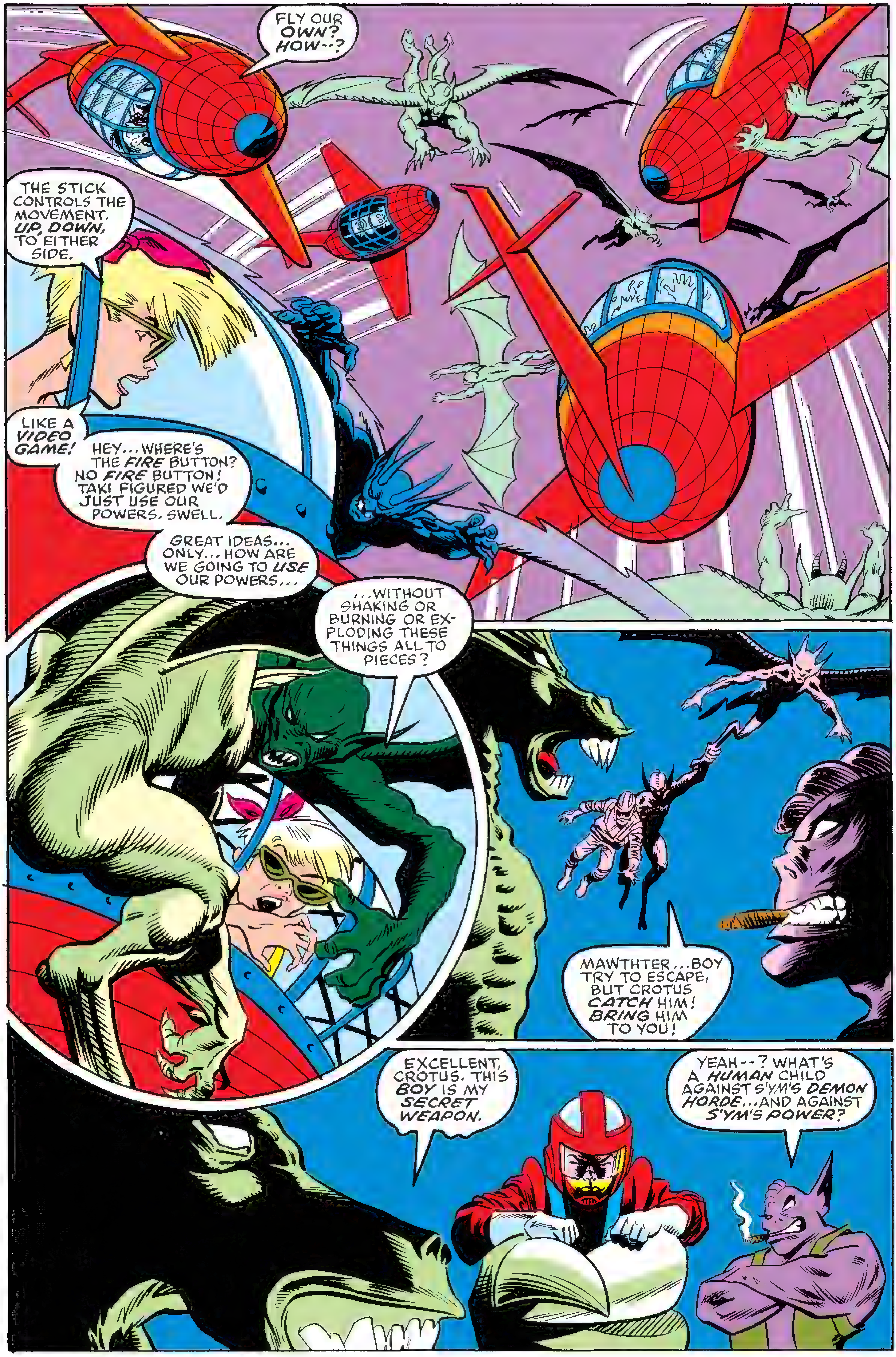

OW! EVEN CORD BURN POOR CROTUS' HAND.
BUT MAWTHTER BURN CROTUS MORE!
SSSSSS
NO!
CLICK!
CROTUS GOT IT!
BOOM!
AAARRRGH!
SKIDS!
DON'T WORRY, KIDS, I GOT HER!
RUSTY, I TRIED TO STOP HIM AND... I BLEW IT...!
YEAH. THE PENTAGRAM'S RESTABILIZED! WHAT NOW?
UNPLUG IT AGAIN.
OR RICTOR CAN SHAKE IT APART... OR BOOM-BOOM EXPLODE IT! WHATEVER! ONLY WE'VE GOT TO DO--
RUSTY, DOWN BELOW. THE DEMON GIRL VANISHED...

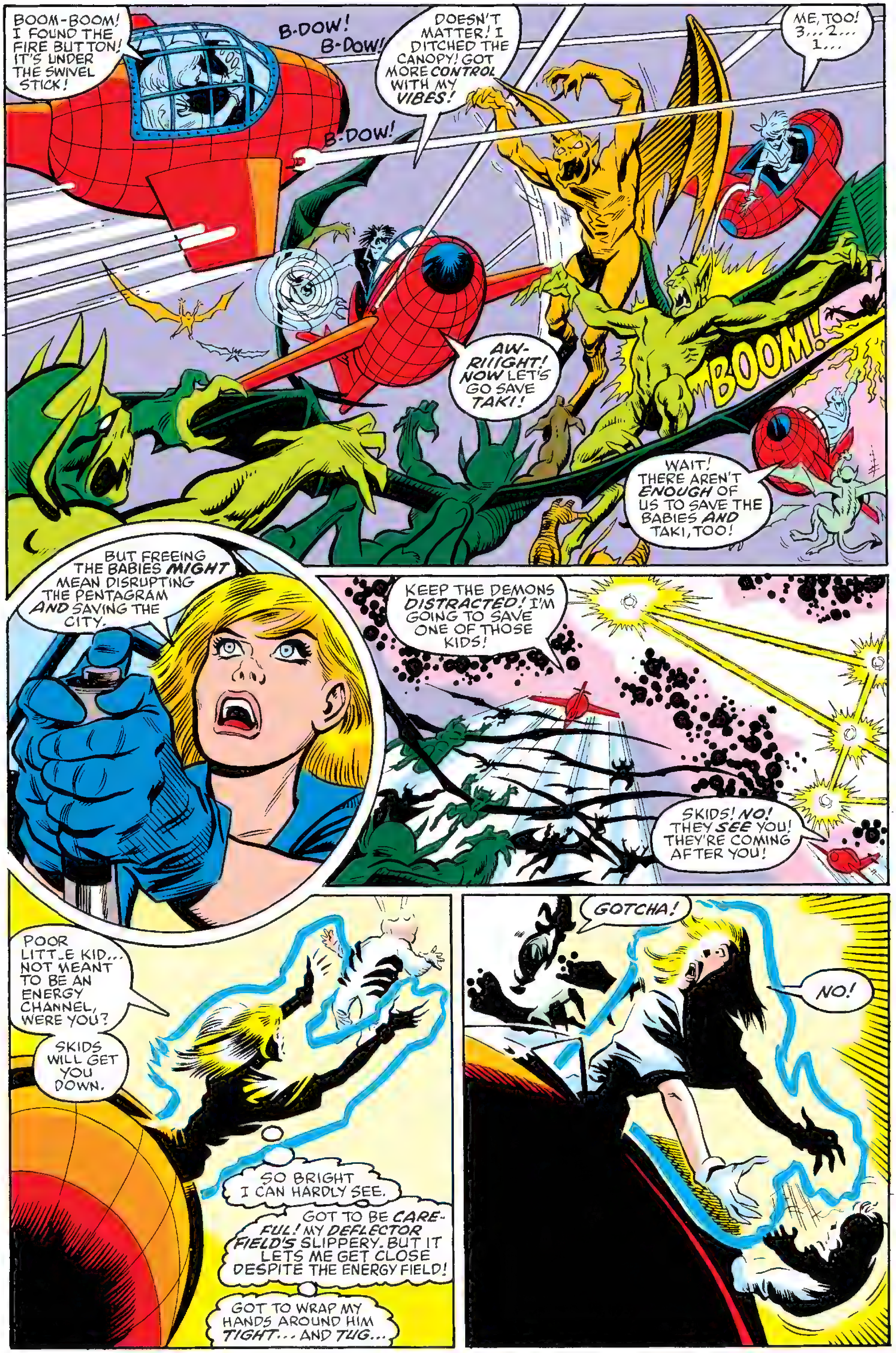

"...AND *WHO*...OR *WHAT*...IS N'ASTIRH FIGHTING *NOW?*"*
"*ANOTHER* DEMON... AS BIG...AS UGLY AS N'ASTIRH HIMSELF!"
THE PENTAGRAM *FLICKERED*...!
TO THE *ROOF*, MY DEMON HORDES! *GUARD* THE COMPUTER FROM ALL HARM!
*FIND OUT IN *NEW MUTANTS* #72. BOB.
SO MUCH FOR SMASHING THE *COMPUTER!*
WE'RE STILL *GOOD* FIGHTERS...
WE *MAY* NOT *HAVE* TO BE! JUST HOLD THEM OFF AS LONG AS YOU CAN!
WE'RE NOT *THAT* GOOD.

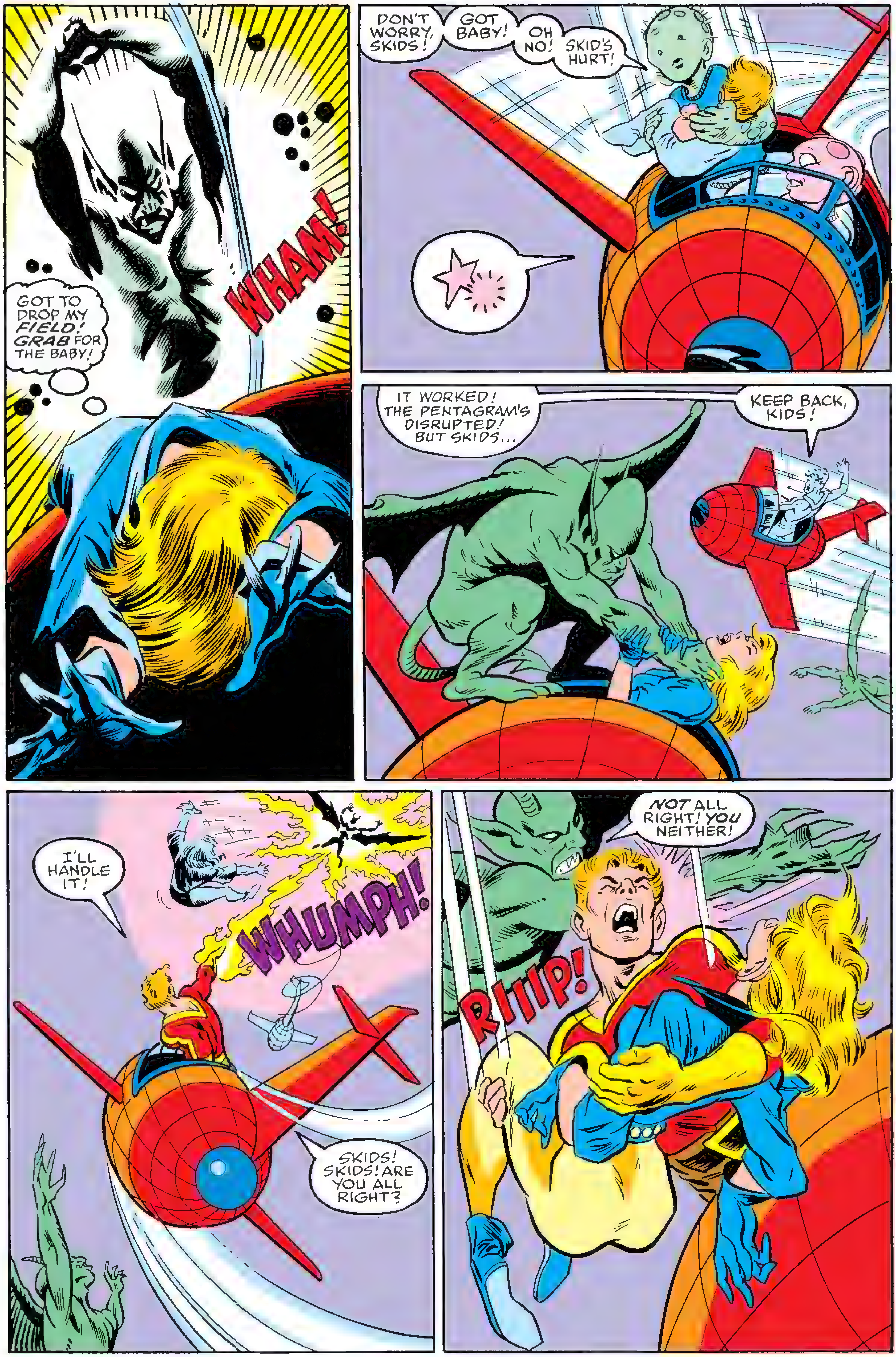

RUMBLE!
THAT OUGHTA BE ABOUT *TWO MINUTES!*
MAKE THAT *NINETY SECONDS!*
HEY, DEMON, GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU...NICE, SHINY *TIME BOMB...*
WHOOMPH!
...*PRETTY,* RIGHT?
HEY, RICTOR, YOU CAN SHAKE 'EM UP BETTER THAN *THAT!*
EVER HEAR OF *CONTROL,* BOOM-BOOM? I *CAN'T* CUT LOOSE. I COULD SHAKE DOWN THE WHOLE *CITY!*
3... 2... 1...
BOOM!
MAYBE THAT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BAD IDEA, PAL. AT LEAST WE'D BURY THESE THINGS...
...'FORE THEY BURIED *US!*
WE CAN'T BREAK THROUGH TO THE COMPUTER! WE CAN'T EVEN *SEE* IT!
WHAT NOW--?
DISRUPT THE ACTUAL *MAGIC,* MAYBE. DISRUPT THE *PENTAGRAM.*
ONE PROBLEM. IT'S WAY UP *THERE...*AND NONE OF US CAN *FLY!*
WE CAN *NOW! NOW,* RUSTY... OVER *HERE!*

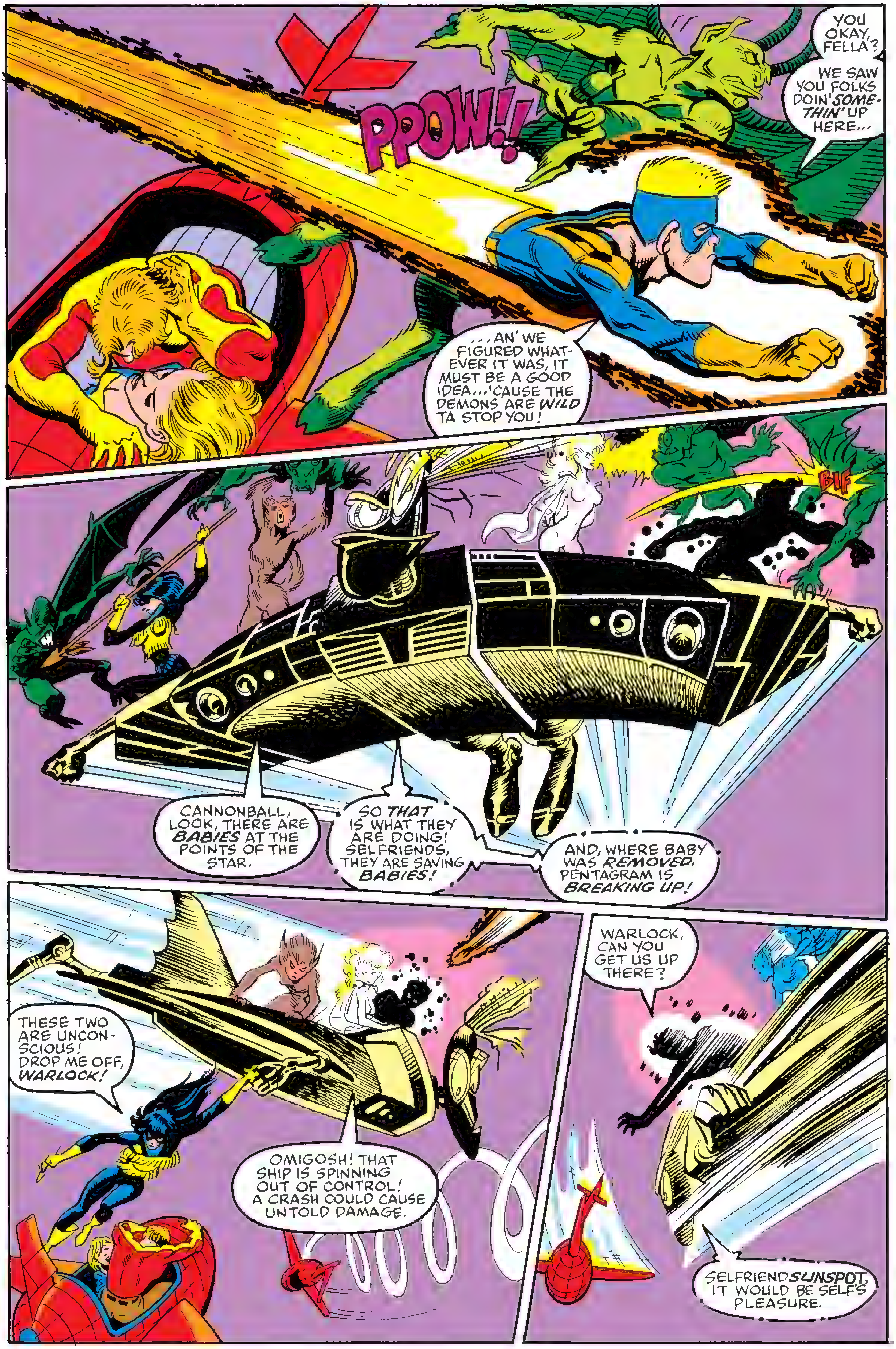
TAKI? WHAT...
"I STARTED THIS A WHILE BACK... *TRANSFORMED* THE BIG CONDENSER ON THE ROOF...
!?
"I COULD SEE IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY... BUT I DIDN'T KNOW JUST *HOW* HANDY.
BUT, TAKI...
"HAD TO MAKE A FEW MODIFICATIONS. WAIT TILL YOU WERE IN PLACE... THEN GROW IT *AROUND* YOU.
"JUST KEEP THAT COCKPIT COVER SHUT, OKAY, RIC?
YO, TAKI, I GOT YOUR DRIFT. THE KIDS AND I ARE IN ALREADY!
GREAT. FEED YOUR BIGGEST *TIME BOMB* INTO THE *ENERGY SLOT,* OKAY, BOOM-BOOM? IT'S GONNA POWER THIS CRAFT...
...AND IF IT'S BUILT FOR ANYTHING... *THIS* BABY IS BUILT FOR *POWER* AND *SPEED!*

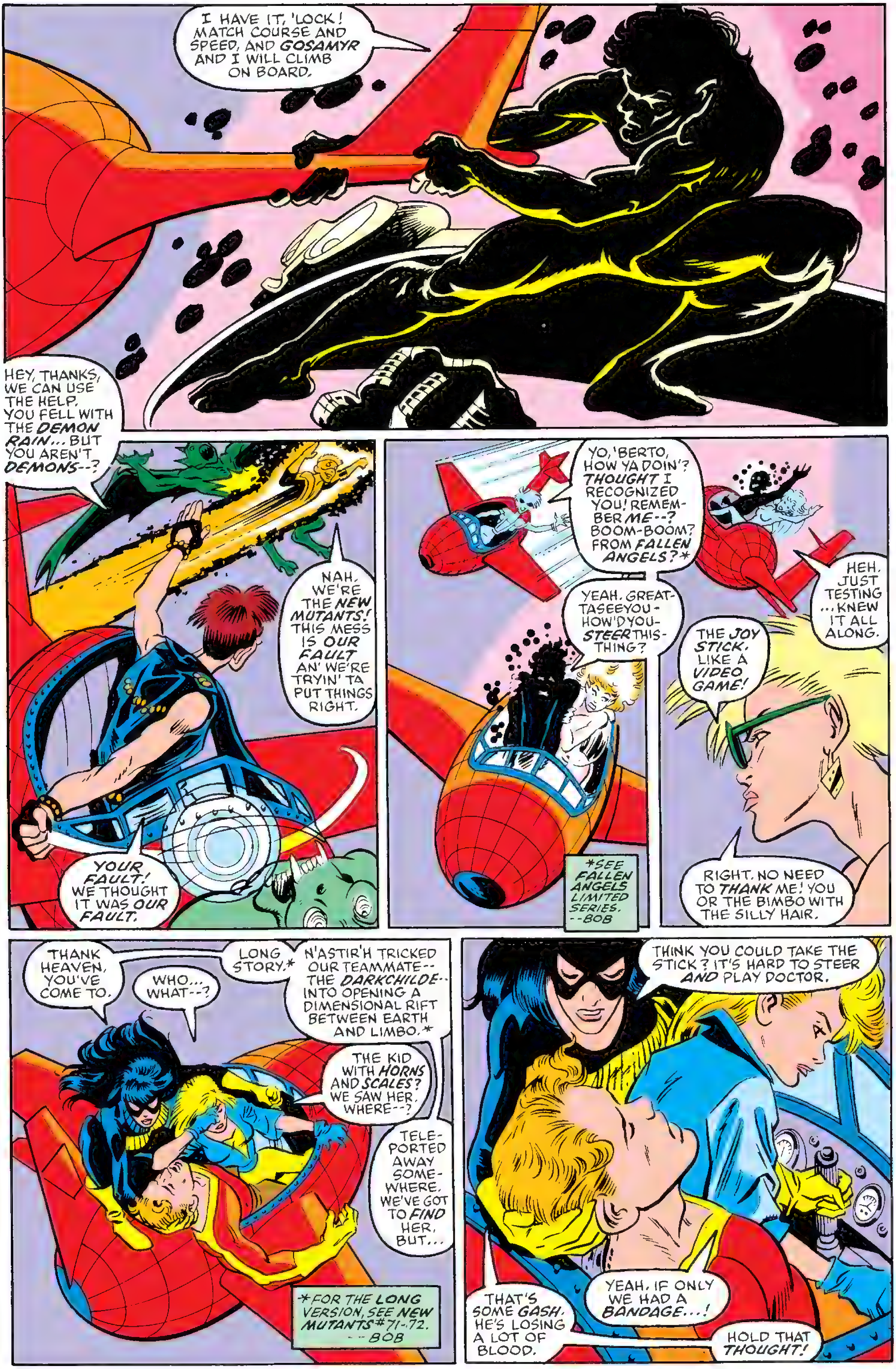

THEY GET AWAY! AFTER THEM, FOOLS!
BUT MASTER SAY PROTECT *COMPUTER.* MASTER *NOT* SAY *CHASE THEM!*
GREAT, THEN *YOU* TELL MAWTHTER IT *YOUR* IDEA TO LET THEM GET AWAY!
AFTER THEM!
POP!
POP!
SPEED! *HA!* SO *PROUD* OF SPEED.
OH, NO!
CRASH!
POP!
YOU DO NOT *KNOW* SPEED, TAKI, TILL YOU KNOW *DEMON* SPEED.
CROTUS *SHOW* YOU!
IT'S A BREAKAWAY *SHIP...* WITH POWER FROM THE TIME BOMB DISTRIBUTED EVENLY AS FUEL.
I DESIGNED IT THAT WAY!
FLY YOUR *OWN!*

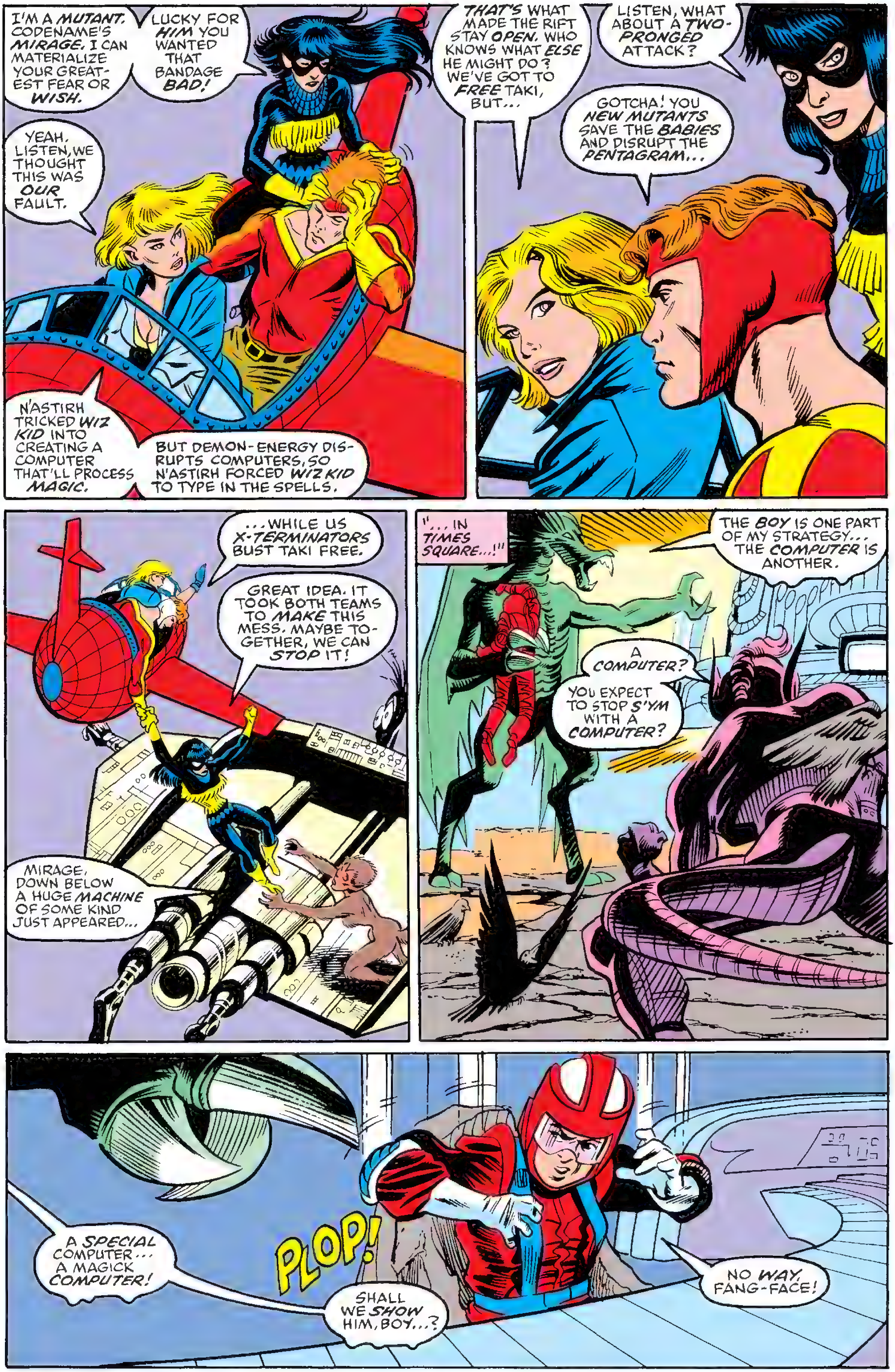

FLY OUR *OWN? HOW--?*
THE STICK CONTROLS THE MOVEMENT, *UP, DOWN,* TO EITHER SIDE.
LIKE A *VIDEO GAME!*
HEY...WHERE'S THE *FIRE* BUTTON? NO *FIRE* BUTTON! TAKI FIGURED WE'D JUST USE OUR POWERS. SWELL.
GREAT IDEAS... ONLY... HOW ARE WE GOING TO *USE* OUR POWERS...
...WITHOUT SHAKING OR BURNING OR EXPLODING THESE THINGS ALL TO PIECES?
MAWTHTER...BOY TRY TO ESCAPE, BUT CROTUS *CATCH* HIM! *BRING* HIM TO YOU!
EXCELLENT, CROTUS. THIS *BOY* IS MY *SECRET WEAPON.*
YEAH--? WHAT'S A *HUMAN* CHILD AGAINST S'YM'S *DEMON HORDE*...AND AGAINST *S'YM'S POWER?*

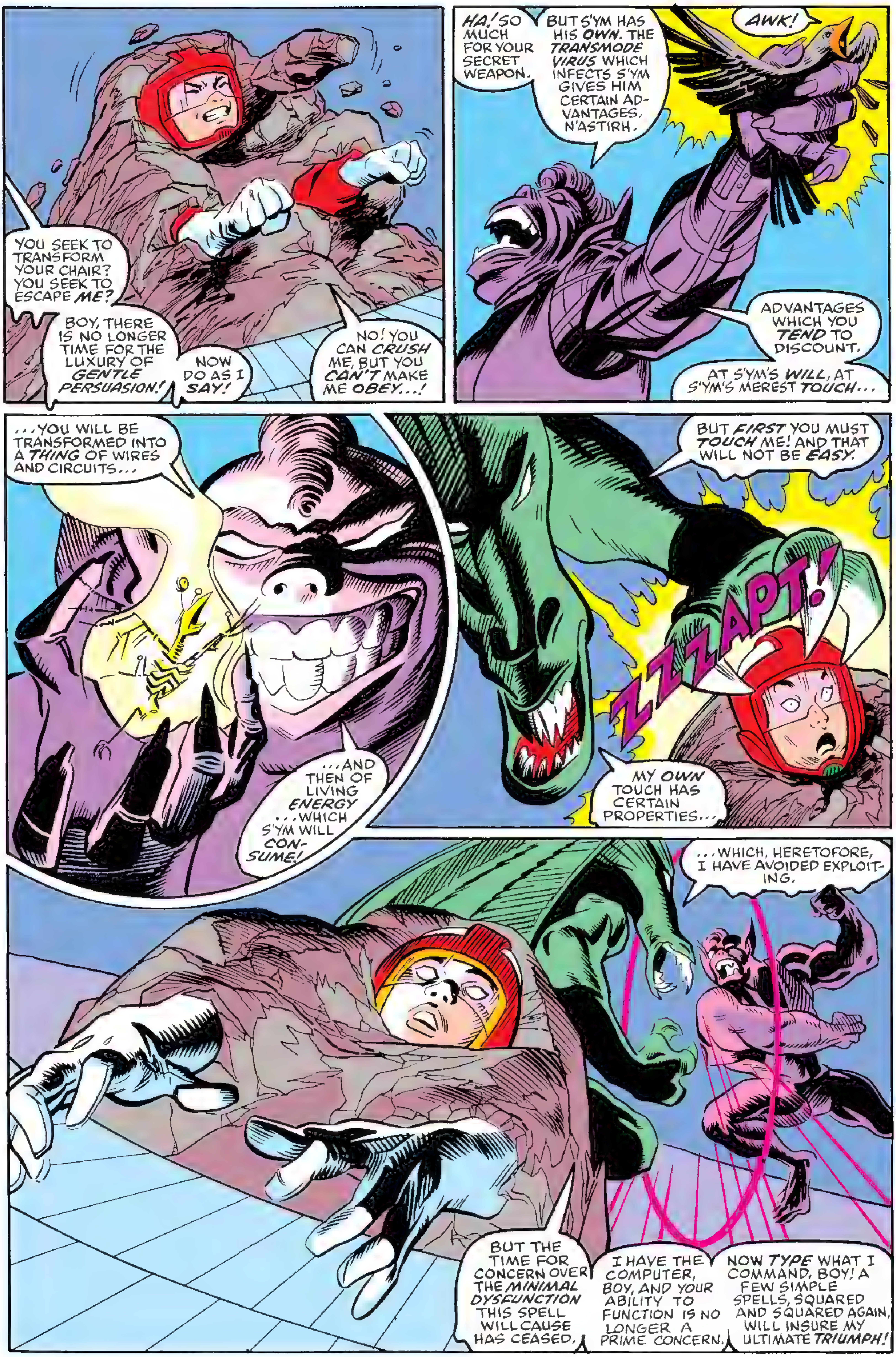

BOOM-BOOM! I FOUND THE FIRE BUTTON! IT'S UNDER THE SWIVEL STICK!
B-DOW! B-DOW!
DOESN'T MATTER! I DITCHED THE CANOPY! GOT MORE CONTROL WITH MY VIBES!
ME, TOO! 3... 2... 1...
B-DOW!
AW-RIIIGHT! NOW LET'S GO SAVE TAKI!
BOOM!
WAIT! THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO SAVE THE BABIES AND TAKI, TOO!
BUT FREEING THE BABIES MIGHT MEAN DISRUPTING THE PENTAGRAM AND SAVING THE CITY.
KEEP THE DEMONS DISTRACTED! I'M GOING TO SAVE ONE OF THOSE KIDS!
SKIDS! NO! THEY SEE YOU! THEY'RE COMING AFTER YOU!
POOR LITTLE KID... NOT MEANT TO BE AN ENERGY CHANNEL, WERE YOU?
SKIDS WILL GET YOU DOWN.
SO BRIGHT I CAN HARDLY SEE.
GOT TO BE CAREFUL! MY DEFLECTOR FIELD'S SLIPPERY. BUT IT LETS ME GET CLOSE DESPITE THE ENERGY FIELD!
GOT TO WRAP MY HANDS AROUND HIM TIGHT... AND TUG...
GOTCHA!
NO!

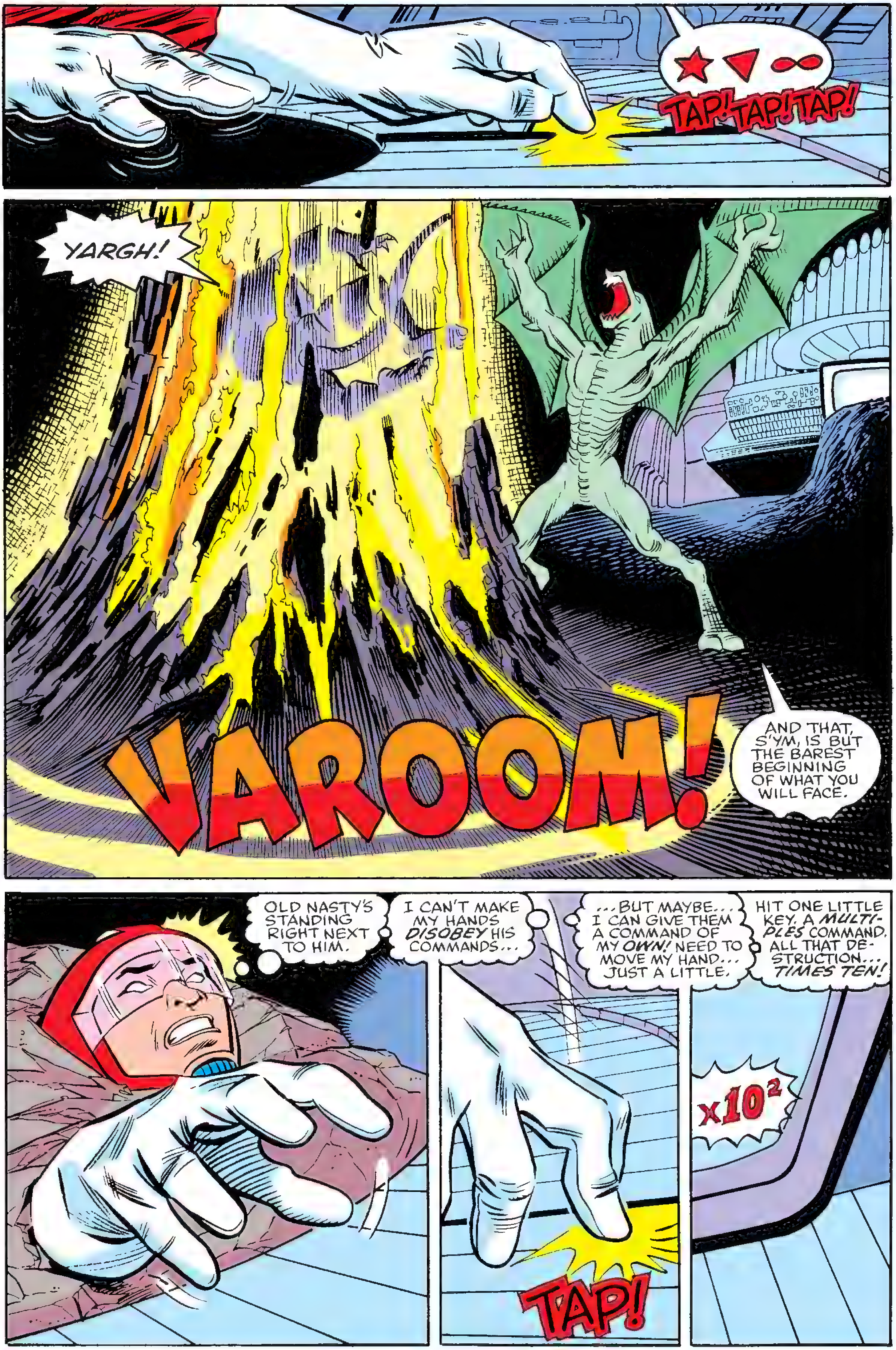

WHAM!
GOT TO DROP MY *FIELD!* *GRAB* FOR THE BABY!
DON'T WORRY, SKIDS!
GOT BABY!
OH NO!
SKID'S HURT!
IT WORKED! THE PENTAGRAM'S DISRUPTED! BUT SKIDS...
KEEP BACK, KIDS!
I'LL HANDLE IT!
WHUMPH!
SKIDS! SKIDS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOT ALL RIGHT! *YOU* NEITHER!
RIIIP!

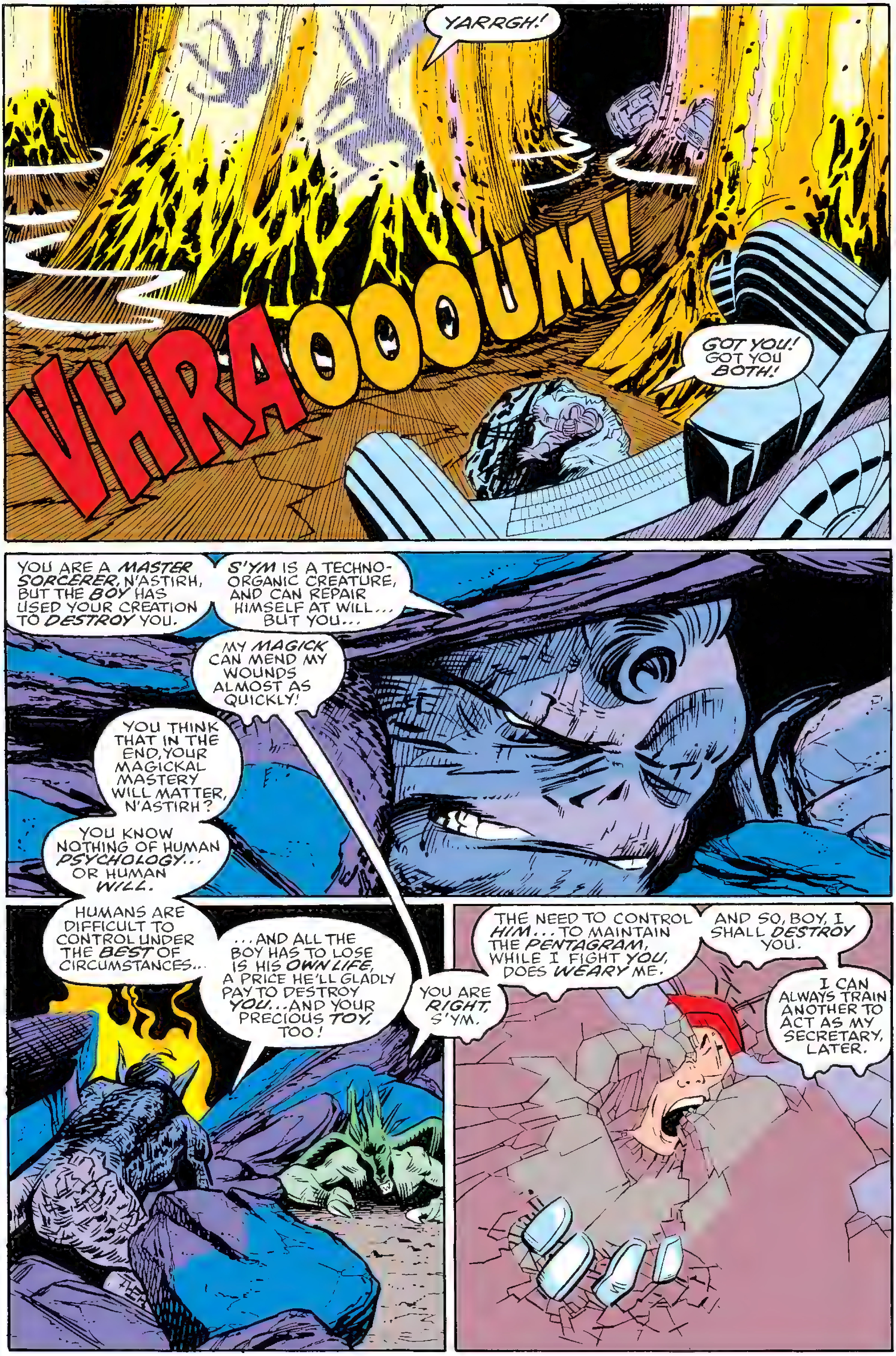

PPOW!!
YOU OKAY, FELLA?
WE SAW YOU FOLKS DOIN' *SOMETHIN'* UP HERE...
...AN' WE FIGURED WHATEVER IT WAS, IT MUST BE A GOOD IDEA...'CAUSE THE DEMONS ARE *WILD* TA STOP YOU!
BIF
CANNONBALL, LOOK, THERE ARE *BABIES* AT THE POINTS OF THE STAR.
SO *THAT* IS WHAT THEY ARE DOING! SELFRIENDS, THEY ARE SAVING *BABIES!*
AND, WHERE BABY WAS *REMOVED,* PENTAGRAM IS *BREAKING UP!*
THESE TWO ARE UNCONSCIOUS! DROP ME OFF, *WARLOCK!*
OMIGOSH! THAT SHIP IS SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL! A CRASH COULD CAUSE UNTOLD DAMAGE.
WARLOCK, CAN YOU GET US UP THERE?
SELFRIEND *SUNSPOT,* IT WOULD BE SELF'S PLEASURE.

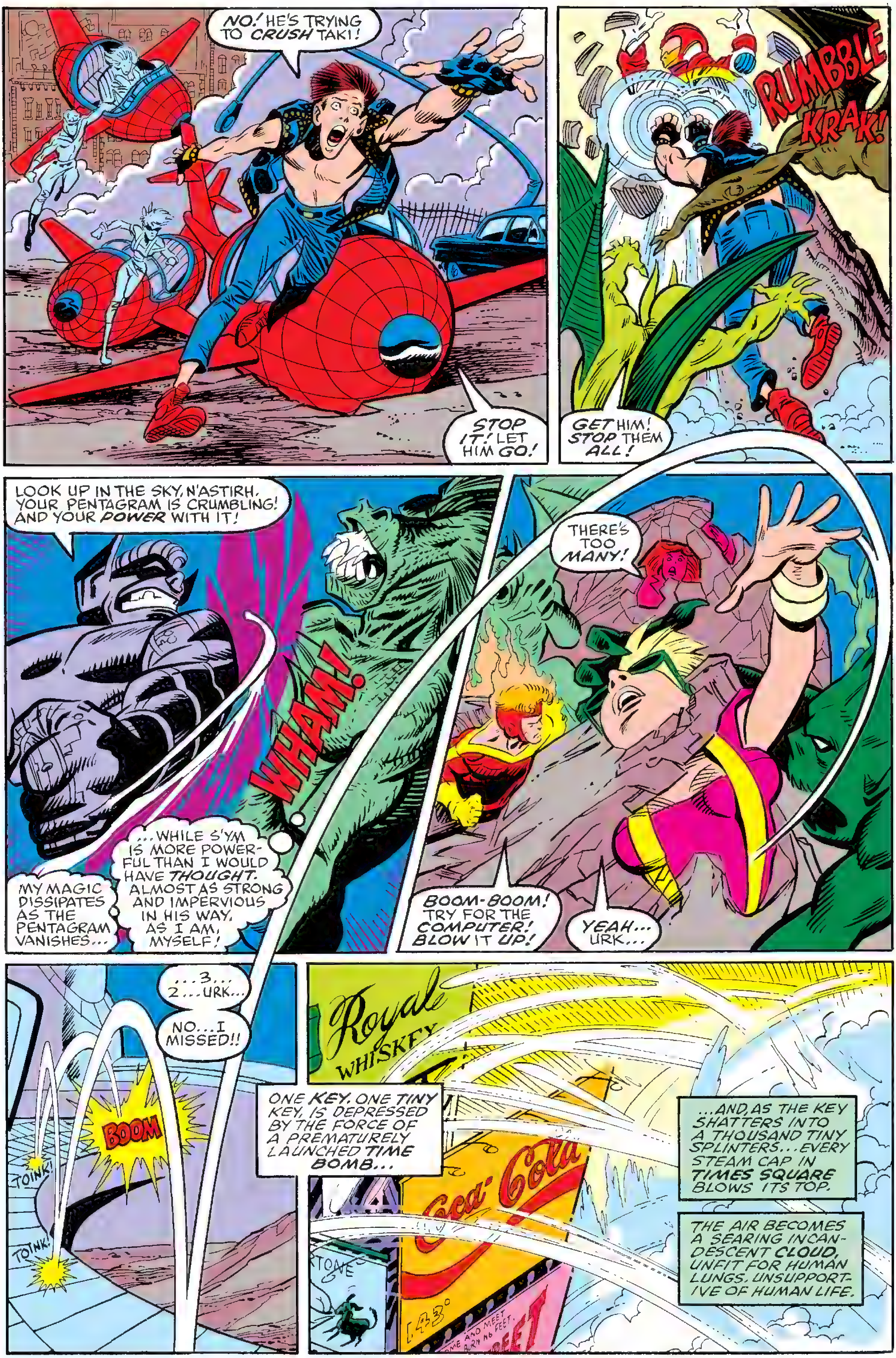

I HAVE IT, 'LOCK! MATCH COURSE AND SPEED, AND GOSAMYR AND I WILL CLIMB ON BOARD.
HEY, THANKS, WE CAN USE THE HELP. YOU FELL WITH THE DEMON RAIN... BUT YOU AREN'T DEMONS--?
NAH. WE'RE THE NEW MUTANTS! THIS MESS IS OUR FAULT AN' WE'RE TRYIN' TA PUT THINGS RIGHT.
YOUR FAULT! WE THOUGHT IT WAS OUR FAULT.
YO, 'BERTO, HOW YA DOIN'? THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU! REMEMBER ME--? BOOM-BOOM? FROM FALLEN ANGELS?*
YEAH. GREAT TA SEE YOU -- HOW'D YOU STEER THIS THING?
*SEE FALLEN ANGELS LIMITED SERIES. --BOB
THE JOY STICK. LIKE A VIDEO GAME!
HEH. JUST TESTING... KNEW IT ALL ALONG.
RIGHT. NO NEED TO THANK ME! YOU OR THE BIMBO WITH THE SILLY HAIR.
THANK HEAVEN, YOU'VE COME TO.
WHO... WHAT--?
LONG STORY.*
N'ASTIR'H TRICKED OUR TEAMMATE-- THE DARKCHILDE-- INTO OPENING A DIMENSIONAL RIFT BETWEEN EARTH AND LIMBO.*
THE KID WITH HORNS AND SCALES? WE SAW HER. WHERE--?
TELEPORTED AWAY SOMEWHERE. WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER. BUT...
*FOR THE LONG VERSION, SEE NEW MUTANTS #71-72. --BOB
THINK YOU COULD TAKE THE STICK? IT'S HARD TO STEER AND PLAY DOCTOR.
THAT'S SOME GASH. HE'S LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD.
YEAH. IF ONLY WE HAD A BANDAGE...!
HOLD THAT THOUGHT!

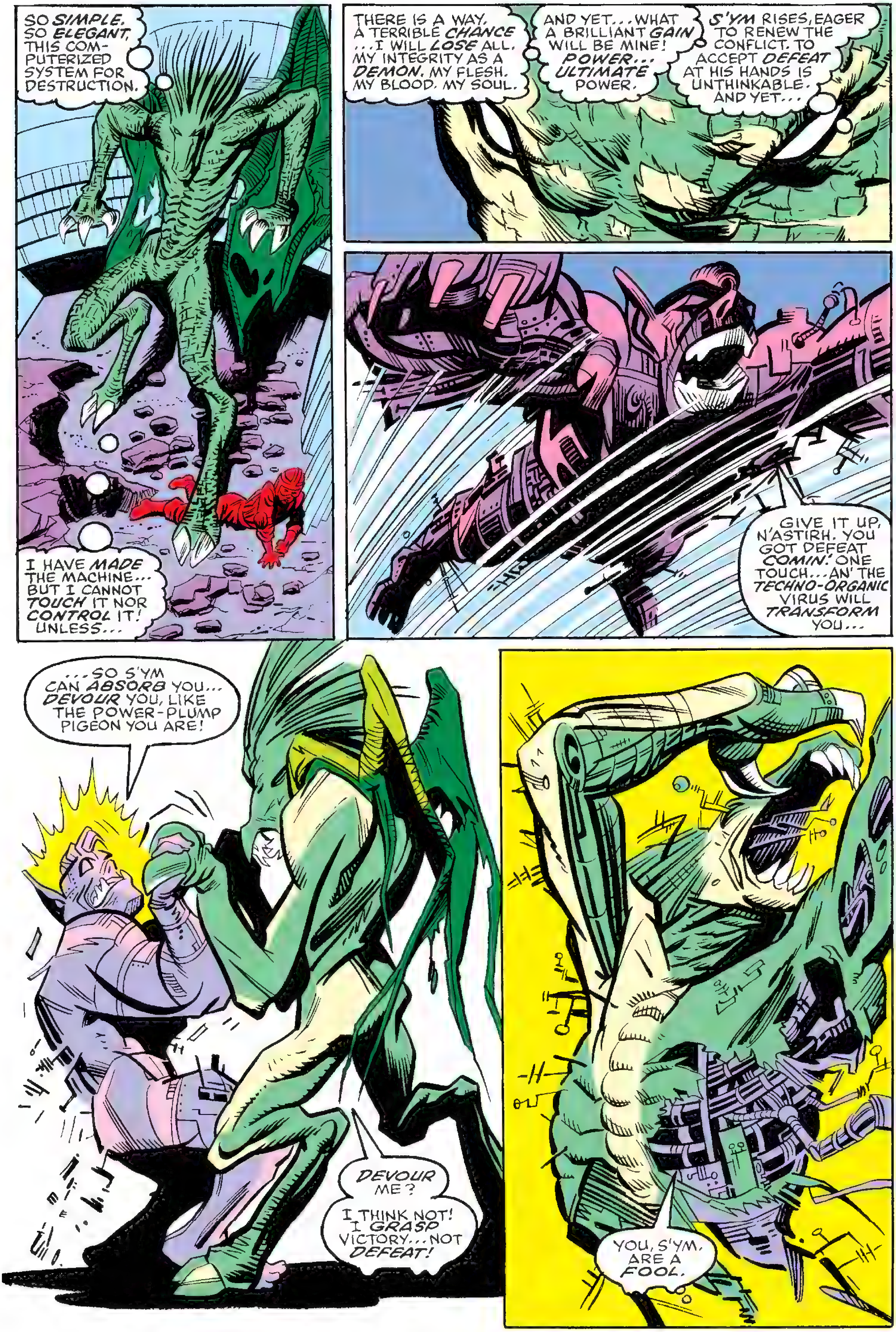

I'M A MUTANT. CODENAME'S MIRAGE. I CAN MATERIALIZE YOUR GREATEST FEAR OR WISH.
LUCKY FOR HIM YOU WANTED THAT BANDAGE BAD!
YEAH, LISTEN, WE THOUGHT THIS WAS OUR FAULT.
N'ASTIRH TRICKED WIZ KID INTO CREATING A COMPUTER THAT'LL PROCESS MAGIC.
BUT DEMON-ENERGY DISRUPTS COMPUTERS, SO N'ASTIRH FORCED WIZ KID TO TYPE IN THE SPELLS.
THAT'S WHAT MADE THE RIFT STAY OPEN. WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE HE MIGHT DO? WE'VE GOT TO FREE TAKI, BUT...
LISTEN, WHAT ABOUT A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK?
GOTCHA! YOU NEW MUTANTS SAVE THE BABIES AND DISRUPT THE PENTAGRAM...
...WHILE US X-TERMINATORS BUST TAKI FREE.
GREAT IDEA. IT TOOK BOTH TEAMS TO MAKE THIS MESS. MAYBE TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP IT!
MIRAGE, DOWN BELOW A HUGE MACHINE OF SOME KIND JUST APPEARED...
"...IN TIMES SQUARE...!"
THE BOY IS ONE PART OF MY STRATEGY... THE COMPUTER IS ANOTHER.
A COMPUTER?
YOU EXPECT TO STOP S'YM WITH A COMPUTER?
A SPECIAL COMPUTER... A MAGICK COMPUTER!
PLOP!
SHALL WE SHOW HIM, BOY...?
NO WAY, FANG-FACE!


YOU SEEK TO TRANSFORM YOUR CHAIR? YOU SEEK TO ESCAPE *ME?*
BOY, THERE IS NO LONGER TIME FOR THE LUXURY OF *GENTLE PERSUASION!*
NOW DO AS I *SAY!*
NO! YOU CAN *CRUSH* ME, BUT YOU *CAN'T* MAKE ME *OBEY...!*
HA! SO MUCH FOR YOUR SECRET WEAPON.
BUT S'YM HAS HIS *OWN*. THE *TRANSMODE VIRUS* WHICH INFECTS S'YM GIVES HIM CERTAIN ADVANTAGES, N'ASTIRH.
AWK!
ADVANTAGES WHICH YOU *TEND* TO DISCOUNT.
AT S'YM'S *WILL*, AT S'YM'S MEREST *TOUCH...*
...YOU WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO A *THING* OF WIRES AND CIRCUITS...
...AND THEN OF LIVING *ENERGY* ...WHICH S'YM WILL *CONSUME!*
BUT *FIRST* YOU MUST *TOUCH* ME! AND THAT WILL NOT BE *EASY.*
ZZZAPT!
MY *OWN* TOUCH HAS CERTAIN PROPERTIES...
...WHICH, HERETOFORE, I HAVE AVOIDED EXPLOITING.
BUT THE TIME FOR CONCERN OVER THE *MINIMAL DYSFUNCTION* THIS SPELL WILL CAUSE HAS CEASED.
I HAVE THE COMPUTER, BOY, AND YOUR ABILITY TO FUNCTION IS NO LONGER A PRIME CONCERN.
NOW *TYPE* WHAT I COMMAND, BOY! A FEW SIMPLE SPELLS, SQUARED AND SQUARED AGAIN, WILL INSURE MY ULTIMATE *TRIUMPH!*


★ ▼ ∞
TAP! TAP! TAP!
YARGH!
VAROOM!
AND THAT, S'YM, IS BUT THE BAREST BEGINNING OF WHAT YOU WILL FACE.
OLD NASTY'S STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO HIM.
I CAN'T MAKE MY HANDS *DISOBEY* HIS COMMANDS...
...BUT MAYBE... I CAN GIVE THEM A COMMAND OF MY *OWN!* NEED TO MOVE MY HAND... JUST A LITTLE.
HIT ONE LITTLE KEY. A *MULTIPLES* COMMAND. ALL THAT DESTRUCTION... *TIMES TEN!*
TAP!
x10^2

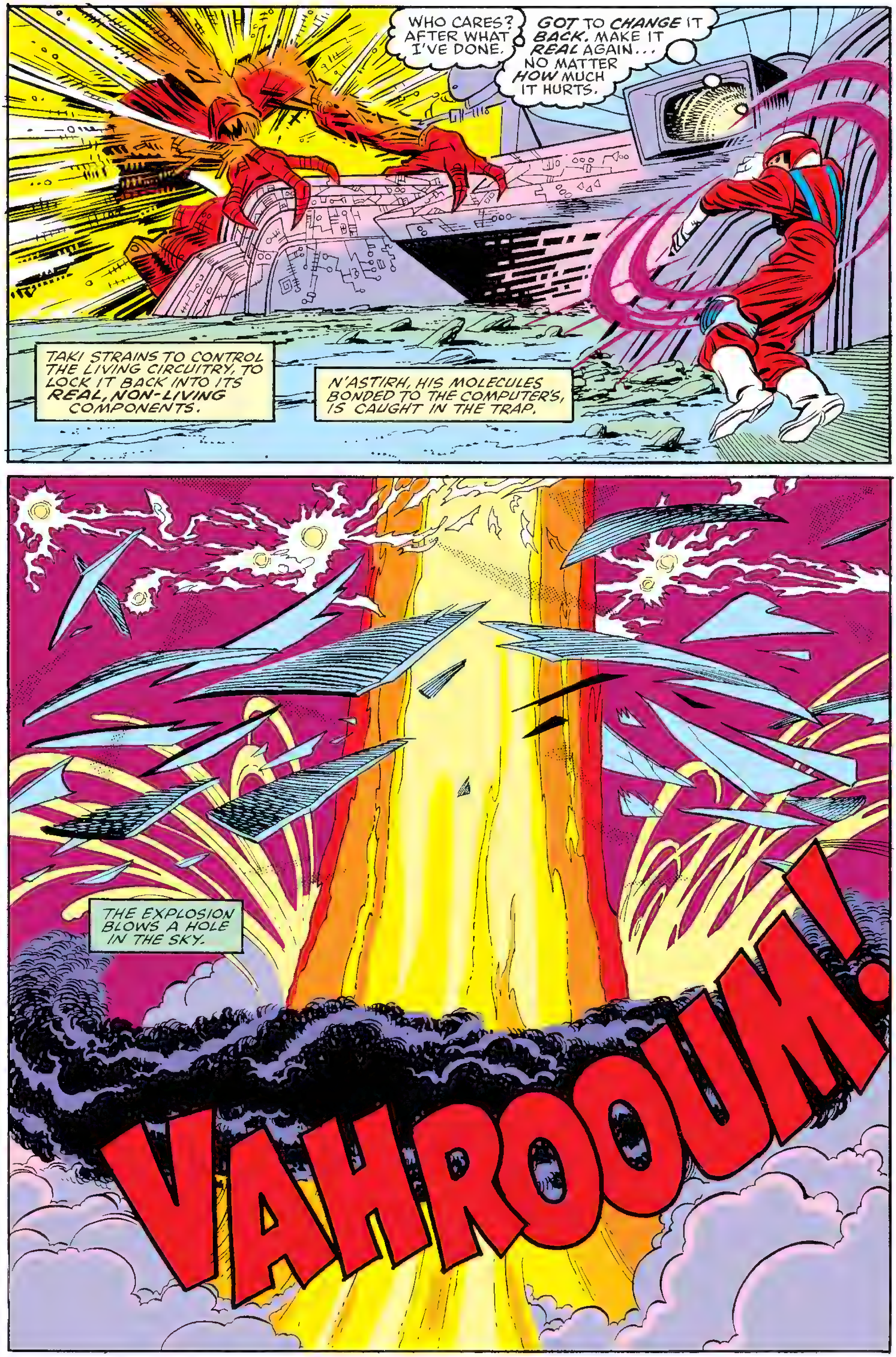

YARRGH!
VHRAOOOOUM!
GOT YOU! GOT YOU BOTH!
YOU ARE A *MASTER SORCERER,* N'ASTIRH, BUT THE *BOY* HAS USED YOUR CREATION TO *DESTROY* YOU.
S'YM IS A TECHNO-ORGANIC CREATURE, AND CAN REPAIR HIMSELF AT WILL... BUT YOU...
MY *MAGICK* CAN MEND MY WOUNDS ALMOST AS QUICKLY!
YOU THINK THAT IN THE END, YOUR MAGICKAL MASTERY WILL MATTER, N'ASTIRH?
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF HUMAN *PSYCHOLOGY*... OR HUMAN *WILL.*
HUMANS ARE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL UNDER THE *BEST* OF CIRCUMSTANCES...
...AND ALL THE BOY HAS TO LOSE IS HIS *OWN LIFE,* A PRICE HE'LL GLADLY PAY TO DESTROY *YOU*... AND YOUR PRECIOUS *TOY,* TOO!
YOU ARE *RIGHT,* S'YM.
THE NEED TO CONTROL *HIM*... TO MAINTAIN THE *PENTAGRAM,* WHILE I FIGHT *YOU,* DOES *WEARY* ME.
AND SO, BOY, I SHALL *DESTROY* YOU.
I CAN ALWAYS TRAIN ANOTHER TO ACT AS MY SECRETARY, LATER.

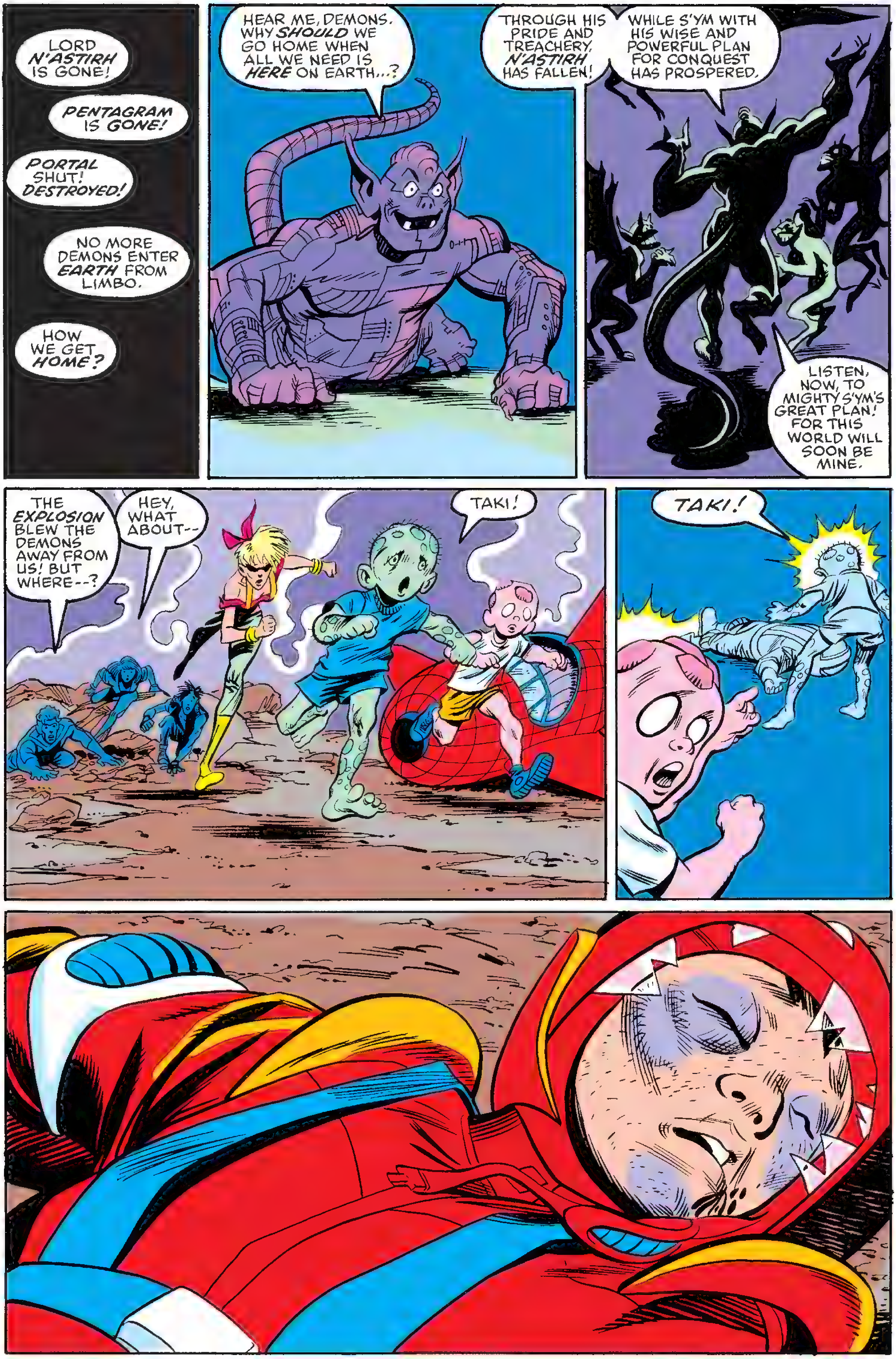

NO! HE'S TRYING TO CRUSH TAKI!
STOP IT! LET HIM GO!
RUMBBLE
KRAK!
GET HIM! STOP THEM ALL!
LOOK UP IN THE SKY, N'ASTIRH. YOUR PENTAGRAM IS CRUMBLING! AND YOUR POWER WITH IT!
WHAM!
MY MAGIC DISSIPATES AS THE PENTAGRAM VANISHES...
...WHILE S'YM IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT. ALMOST AS STRONG AND IMPERVIOUS IN HIS WAY, AS I AM, MYSELF!
THERE'S TOO MANY!
BOOM-BOOM! TRY FOR THE COMPUTER! BLOW IT UP!
YEAH... URK...
...3... 2...URK...
NO...I MISSED!!
BOOM
TOINK!
TOINK!
Royal WHISKEY
ONE KEY, ONE TINY KEY, IS DEPRESSED BY THE FORCE OF A PREMATURELY LAUNCHED TIME BOMB...
Coca-Cola
...AND, AS THE KEY SHATTERS INTO A THOUSAND TINY SPLINTERS... EVERY STEAM CAP IN TIMES SQUARE BLOWS ITS TOP.
THE AIR BECOMES A SEARING INCANDESCENT CLOUD, UNFIT FOR HUMAN LUNGS, UNSUPPORTIVE OF HUMAN LIFE.


SO SIMPLE. SO ELEGANT, THIS COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM FOR DESTRUCTION.
I HAVE MADE THE MACHINE... BUT I CANNOT TOUCH IT NOR CONTROL IT! UNLESS...
THERE IS A WAY. A TERRIBLE CHANCE ...I WILL LOSE ALL. MY INTEGRITY AS A DEMON. MY FLESH. MY BLOOD. MY SOUL.
AND YET... WHAT A BRILLIANT GAIN WILL BE MINE! POWER... ULTIMATE POWER.
S'YM RISES, EAGER TO RENEW THE CONFLICT. TO ACCEPT DEFEAT AT HIS HANDS IS UNTHINKABLE. AND YET...
GIVE IT UP, N'ASTIRH. YOU GOT DEFEAT COMIN'! ONE TOUCH... AN' THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS WILL TRANSFORM YOU...
...SO S'YM CAN ABSORB YOU... DEVOUR YOU, LIKE THE POWER-PLUMP PIGEON YOU ARE!
DEVOUR ME?
I THINK NOT! I GRASP VICTORY... NOT DEFEAT!
YOU, S'YM, ARE A FOOL.

YOU ARE THE FOOL, N'ASTIRH.
YOU ARE NO LONGER A DEMON... BUT MERELY A FEAST OF LIVING CIRCUITS, TO BE DRAINED BY ME AT WILL...
AH... BUT YOUR WILL IS NOT AS STRONG AS MINE!
YOU DRAIN S'YM'S ENERGY! YOU HURL S'YM BACK...? BUT HOW--?
I AM NO PIGEON TO MEEKLY ACCEPT DESTRUCTION, S'YM.
I, N'ASTIRH, AM THE DESTROYER.
THIS TRANSFORMATION WILL LEAD TO ULTIMATE POWER ...ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THE KNOWLEDGE I POSSESS...
...AND WILL MAKE ME THE DOMINANT SORCERER IN THIS UNIVERSE!

BY THE FORCE OF MY MAGICK, THE *COMPUTER* BECOMES A LIVING, *ORGANIC ENTITY.*
OH, NO. HE'S FOUND A WAY TO *TOUCH* THE COMPUTER... TO *CONTROL* IT HIMSELF.
BY THE POWERS OF MY TOUCH, IT BECOMES A THING OF LIVING *CIRCUITS...*
...WHOSE *LIFE ENERGY,* AND *POTENTIAL,* I ABSORB INTO MYSELF!
MINE WILL BE THE *KNOWLEDGE* OF ITS STRUCTURE!
MINE, THE CAPACITY TO MIMIC ITS ABILITIES.
HE'S TECHNO-ORGANIC NOW. HE CAN CHANGE SHAPES, HE CAN *BECOME* THE COMPUTER.
MY *FRIENDS...* MY *WORLD...* IN THE HANDS OF DEMONS! MY FAULT! ALL MY *FAULT!*
I *AM* THE COMPUTER... AND THE COMPUTER IS *ME!* CIRCUIT OF MY *CIRCUIT...* FLESH OF MY *FLESH...*
...TECHNO-ORGANICALLY *MAGICKAL...* I AM LIVING *ENCHANTMENT ...BREATHING* SPELLS...
ALIVE, YEAH... BUT CIRCUITS, TOO! I CAN STILL *AFFECT* THE CIRCUITS! I'VE *GOT* TO!
COMPUTERS EXPLODE AT A DEMON'S MEREST TOUCH.
AND N'ASTIRH HAS MORE THAN TOUCHED THE COMPUTER. HE'S BECOME A *PART* OF IT.
BUT IF I USE MY POWER TO CHANGE THE COMPUTER BACK TO NORMAL... IT'LL EXPLODE. WHAT'LL THAT DO TO *ME?*


WHO CARES? AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE.
GOT TO CHANGE IT BACK. MAKE IT REAL AGAIN... NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS.
TAKI STRAINS TO CONTROL THE LIVING CIRCUITRY, TO LOCK IT BACK INTO ITS REAL, NON-LIVING COMPONENTS.
N'ASTIRH, HIS MOLECULES BONDED TO THE COMPUTER'S, IS CAUGHT IN THE TRAP.
THE EXPLOSION BLOWS A HOLE IN THE SKY.
VAHROOUM!


LORD N'ASTIRH IS GONE!
PENTAGRAM IS GONE!
PORTAL SHUT! DESTROYED!
NO MORE DEMONS ENTER EARTH FROM LIMBO.
HOW WE GET HOME?
HEAR ME, DEMONS. WHY SHOULD WE GO HOME WHEN ALL WE NEED IS HERE ON EARTH...?
THROUGH HIS PRIDE AND TREACHERY, N'ASTIRH HAS FALLEN!
WHILE S'YM WITH HIS WISE AND POWERFUL PLAN FOR CONQUEST HAS PROSPERED.
LISTEN, NOW, TO MIGHTY S'YM'S GREAT PLAN! FOR THIS WORLD WILL SOON BE MINE.
THE EXPLOSION BLEW THE DEMONS AWAY FROM US! BUT WHERE--?
HEY, WHAT ABOUT--
TAKI!
TAKI!

WE DID IT!
WE HAVE THE BABIES!
SELFRIENDS DISRUPTED THE PENTAGRAM!
MAN, THAT WAS SOME EXPLOSION! WHAT'D YOU DUDES DO DOWN--
OH, NO!
IT'S OKAY! HE'S ALIVE!
HE'S COMING TO!
HE'S CRYING.
WHAT SHOULD WE TELL HIM?
TELL TRUTH!
MY FAULT. ALL MY FAULT! THOSE POOR BABIES...
THE BABIES ARE OKAY! ALL TEN OF THEM.
LISTEN, TAKI. YOU WON! YOU DEFEATED N'ASTIRH... DESTROYED HIM! THERE'S NOT A MOLECULE IN SIGHT.
AND THE PORTAL, DUDE. YOUR EXPLOSION BLEW IT SHUT! YOU DID IT, MAN! YOU SAVED THE WORLD!
YEAH. I DID IT... THOUGHT I COULD...
NO... WE DID IT!
YOU AND ME AND ALL OF US X-TERMINATORS. WE DID IT ALL TOGETHER!
BUT WHAT ABOUT S'YM AND THE OTHER DEMONS?
WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER. FOR NOW LET THE X-TERMINATORS HAVE THEIR REST. THEY'VE EARNED IT.
THE END.
...BUT INFERNO GOES ON AS THE THE X-TERMINATORS' ADVENTURES CONTINUE--IN NEW MUTANTS #72 AND #73.
BOGDANOVE 8-8-88 + MILGROM

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INFERNO™
THE·NEW
MUTANTS®
TM
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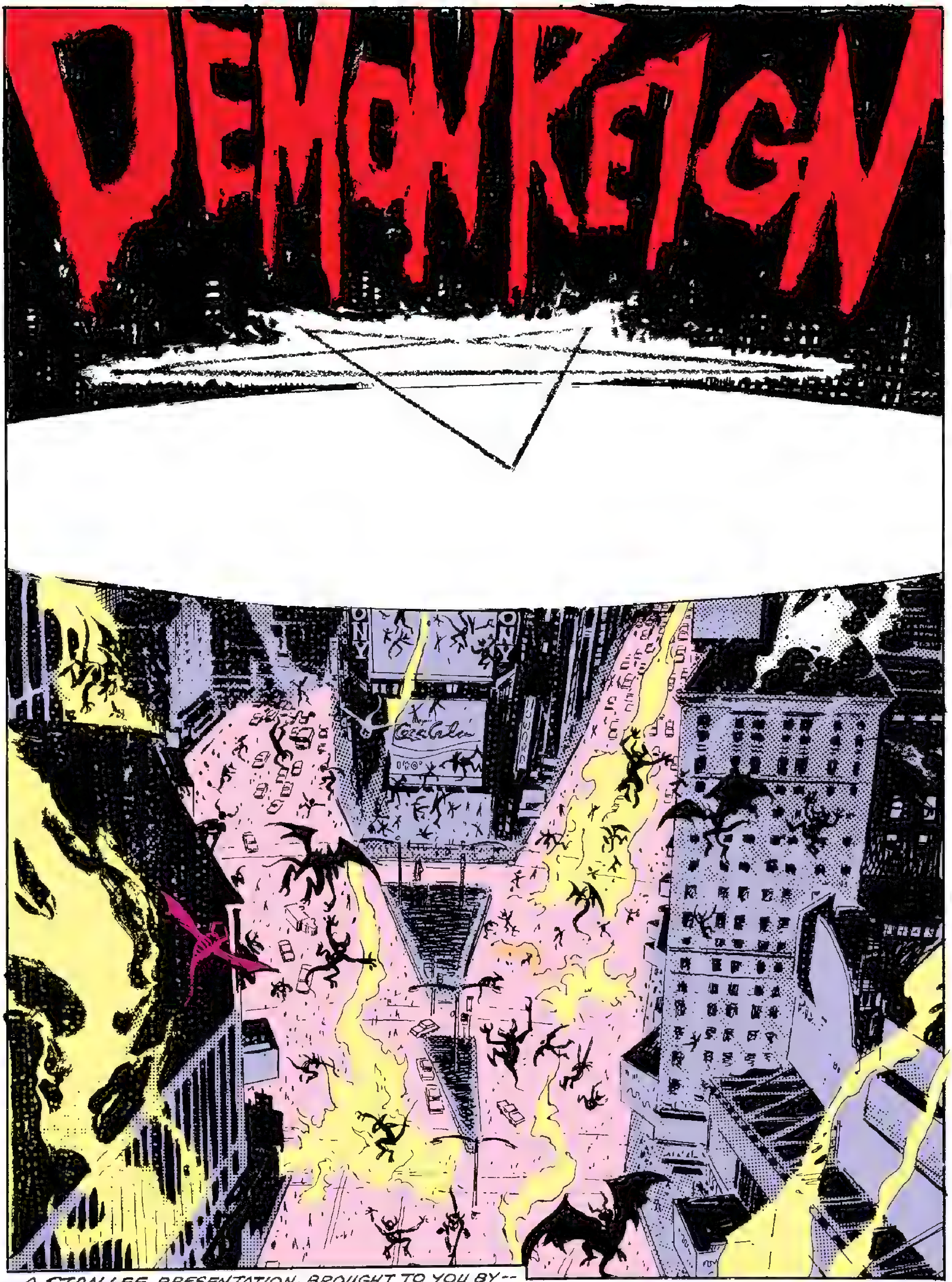
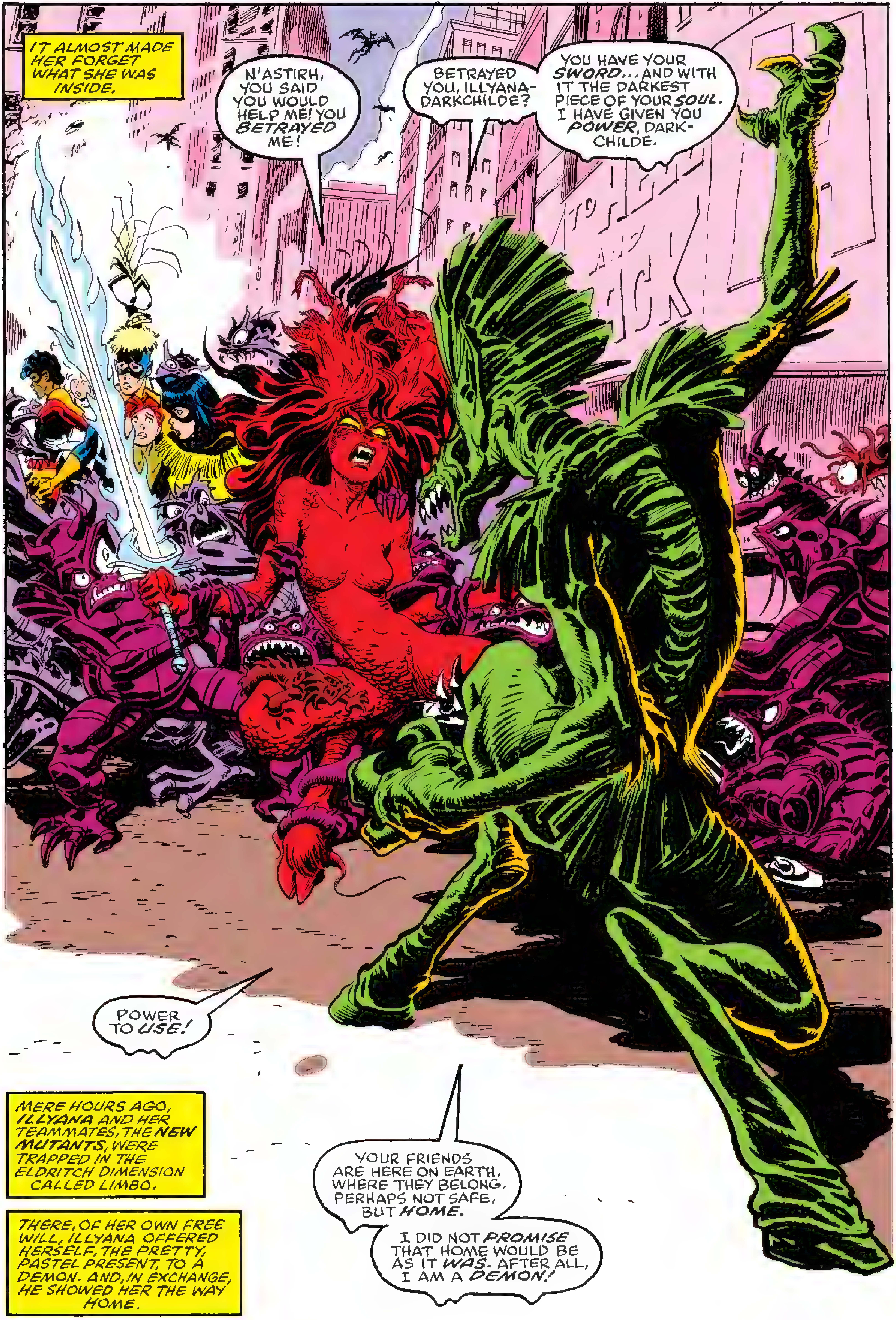
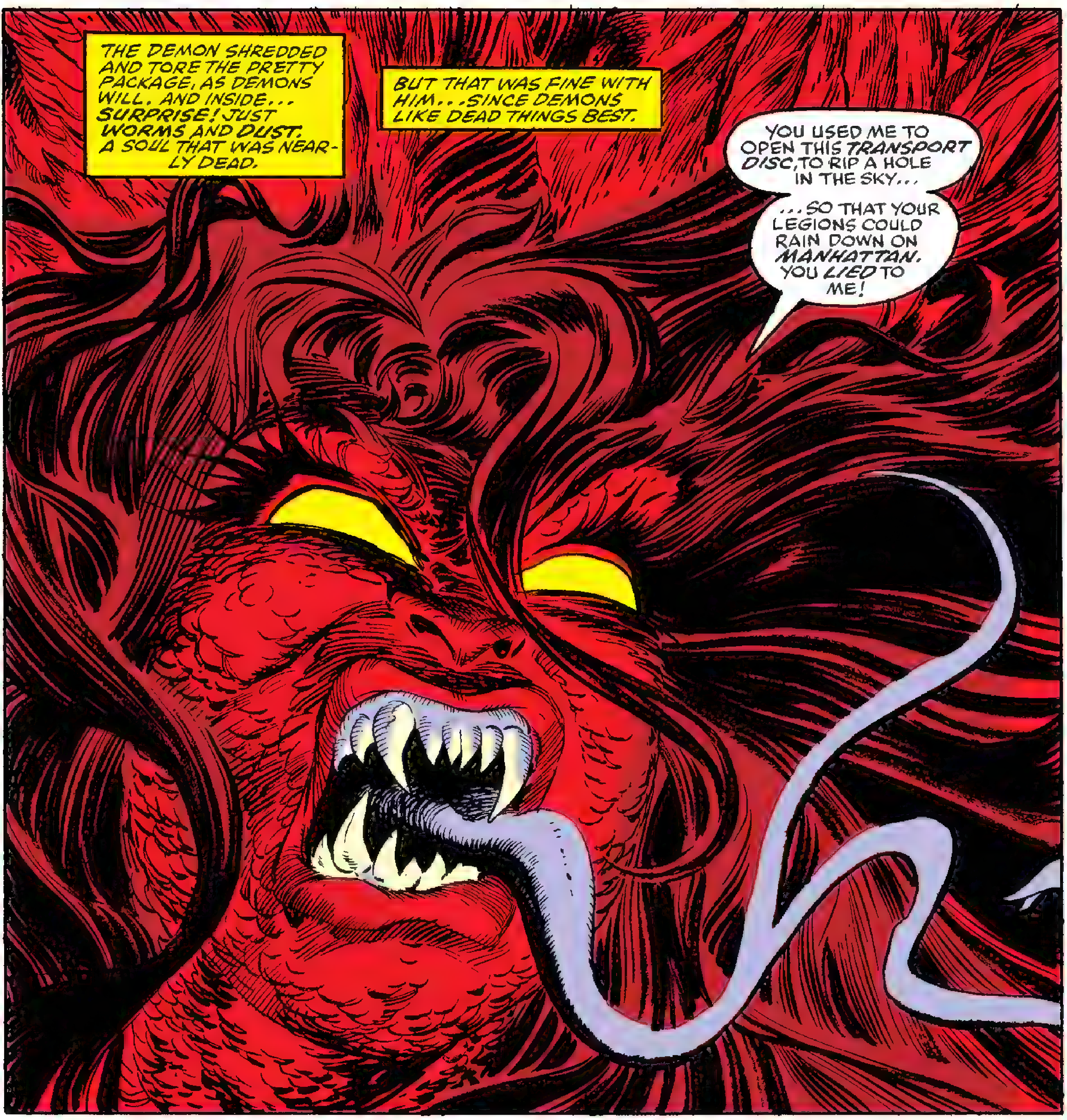
72
FEB
CC 02207
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GUEST-STARRING THE
X-TERMINATORS™
N'ASTIRH VICTORIOUS!

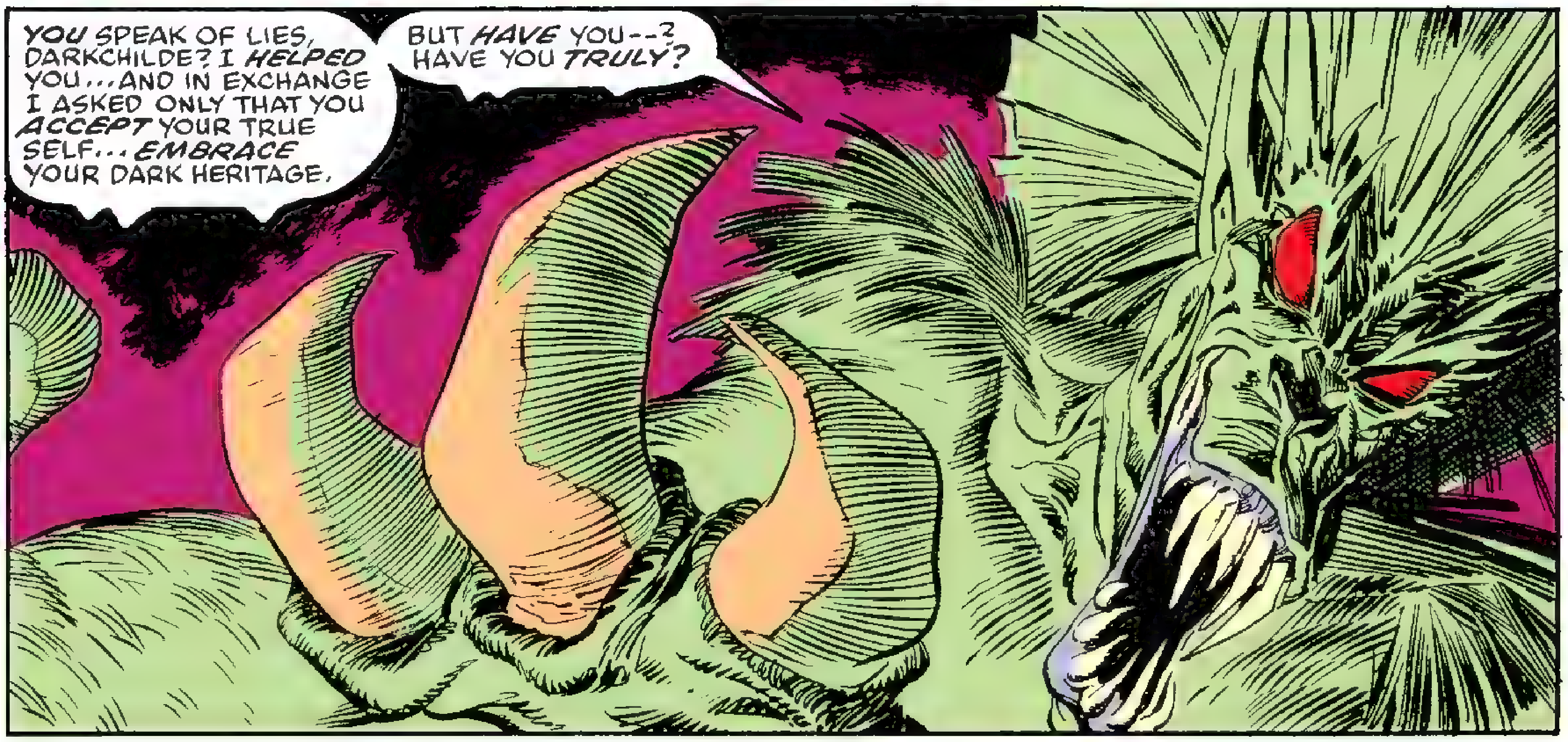

DEMON REIGN
SONY
SONY
Coca-Cola

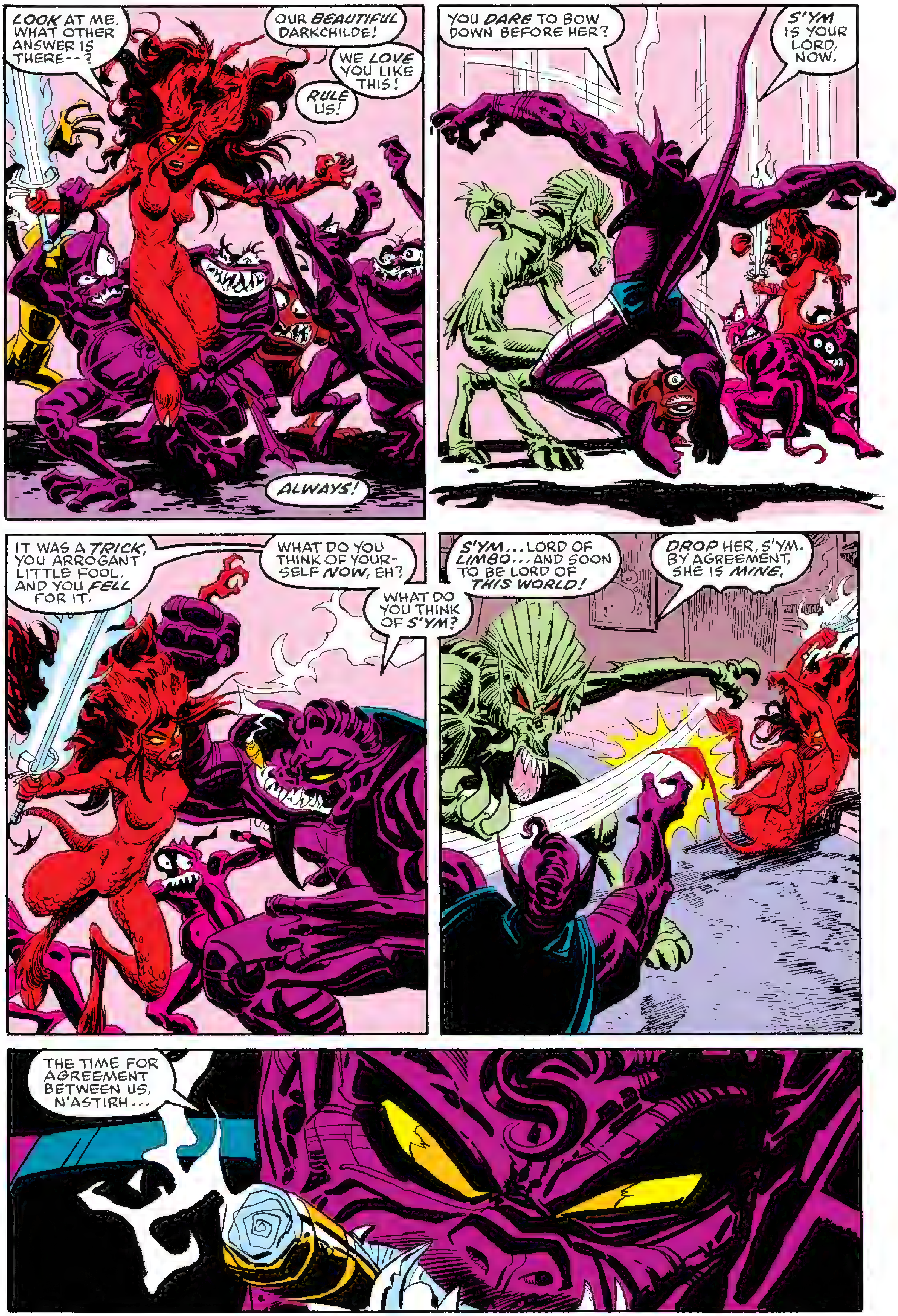
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, BROUGHT TO YOU BY--
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
BRET BLEVINS PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

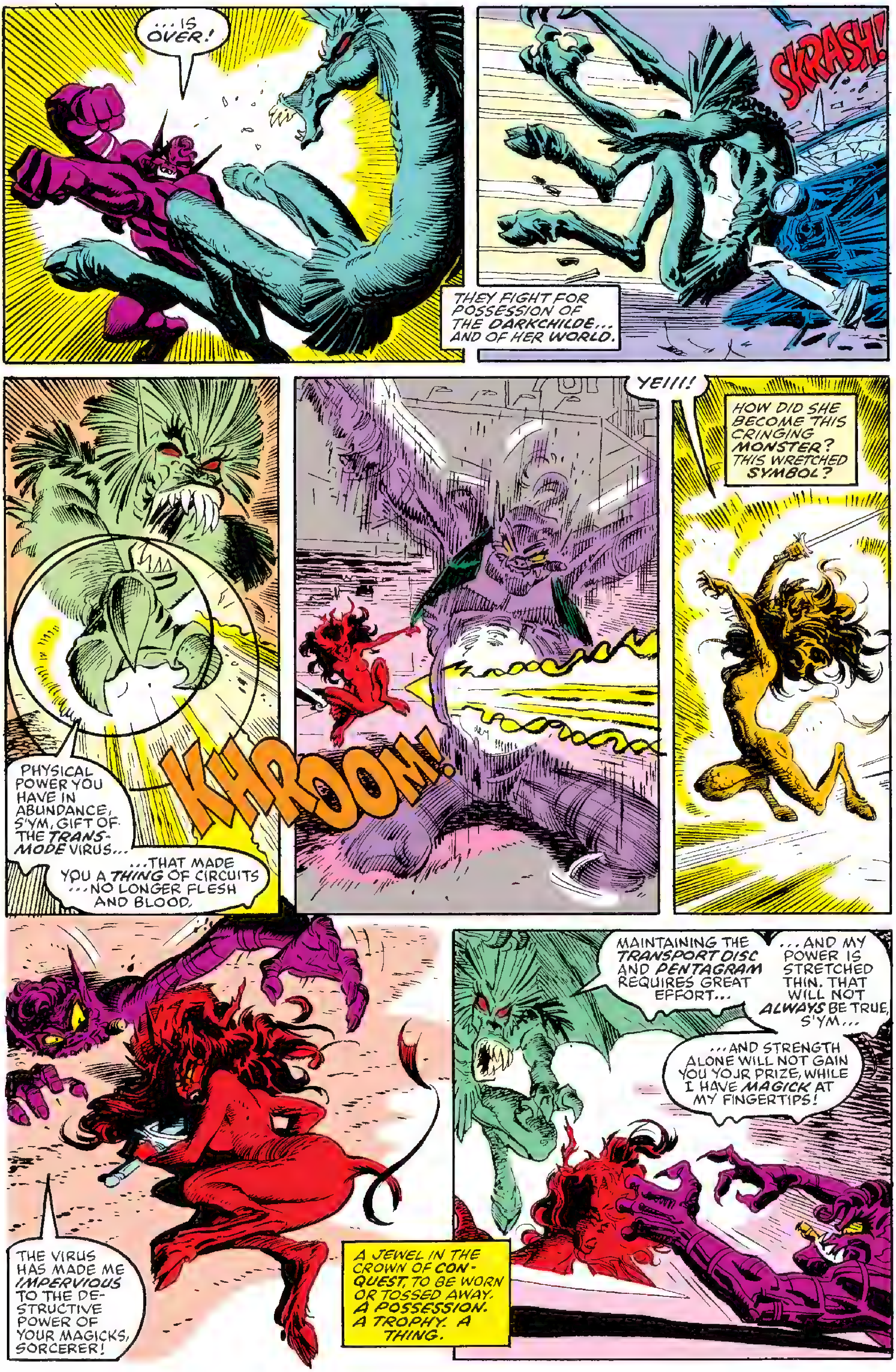
IT WASN'T THAT ILLYANA WAS VAIN. BEAUTY WAS AS NATURAL TO HER AS BREATHING. SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN BEAUTIFUL, LIKE A PERFECT, PASTEL PRESENT, JUST BEGGING TO BE OPENED. BUT SHE LIKED IT, ANYWAY, WHEN HER LOOKS TOOK PEOPLE'S BREATH AWAY.

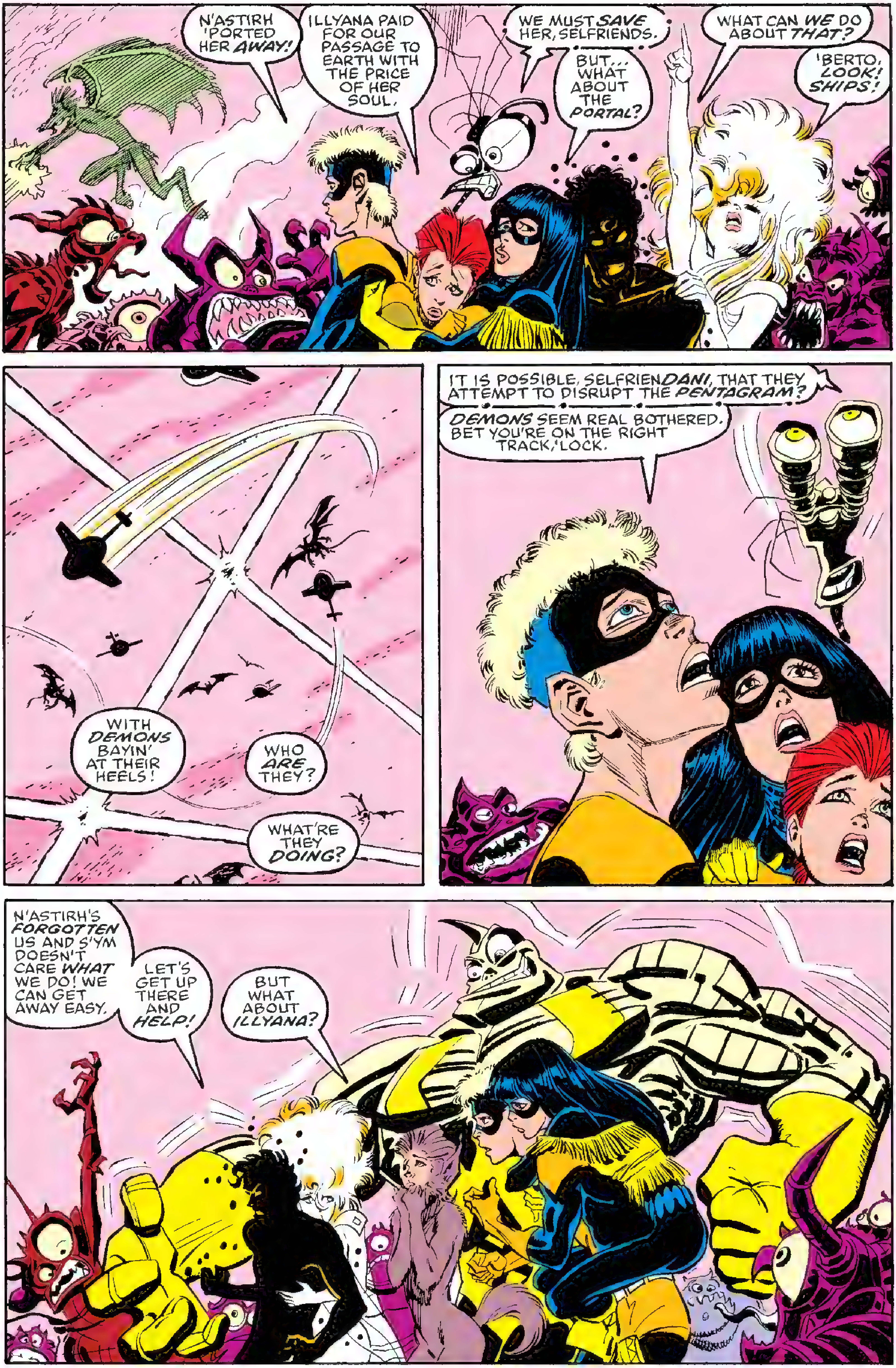

IT ALMOST MADE HER FORGET WHAT SHE WAS INSIDE.
N'ASTIRH, YOU SAID YOU WOULD HELP ME! YOU BETRAYED ME!
BETRAYED YOU, ILLYANA-DARKCHILDE?
YOU HAVE YOUR SWORD... AND WITH IT THE DARKEST PIECE OF YOUR SOUL. I HAVE GIVEN YOU POWER, DARKCHILDE.
POWER TO USE!
MERE HOURS AGO, ILLYANA AND HER TEAMMATES, THE NEW MUTANTS, WERE TRAPPED IN THE ELDRITCH DIMENSION CALLED LIMBO.
THERE, OF HER OWN FREE WILL, ILLYANA OFFERED HERSELF, THE PRETTY, PASTEL PRESENT, TO A DEMON. AND, IN EXCHANGE, HE SHOWED HER THE WAY HOME.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE ON EARTH, WHERE THEY BELONG. PERHAPS NOT SAFE, BUT HOME.
I DID NOT PROMISE THAT HOME WOULD BE AS IT WAS. AFTER ALL, I AM A DEMON!


THE DEMON SHREDDED AND TORE THE PRETTY PACKAGE, AS DEMONS WILL. AND INSIDE... **SURPRISE!** JUST **WORMS AND DUST.** A SOUL THAT WAS NEARLY DEAD.
BUT THAT WAS FINE WITH HIM... SINCE DEMONS LIKE DEAD THINGS BEST.
YOU USED ME TO OPEN THIS *TRANSPORT DISC*, TO RIP A HOLE IN THE SKY...
...SO THAT YOUR LEGIONS COULD RAIN DOWN ON *MANHATTAN*. YOU *LIED* TO ME!

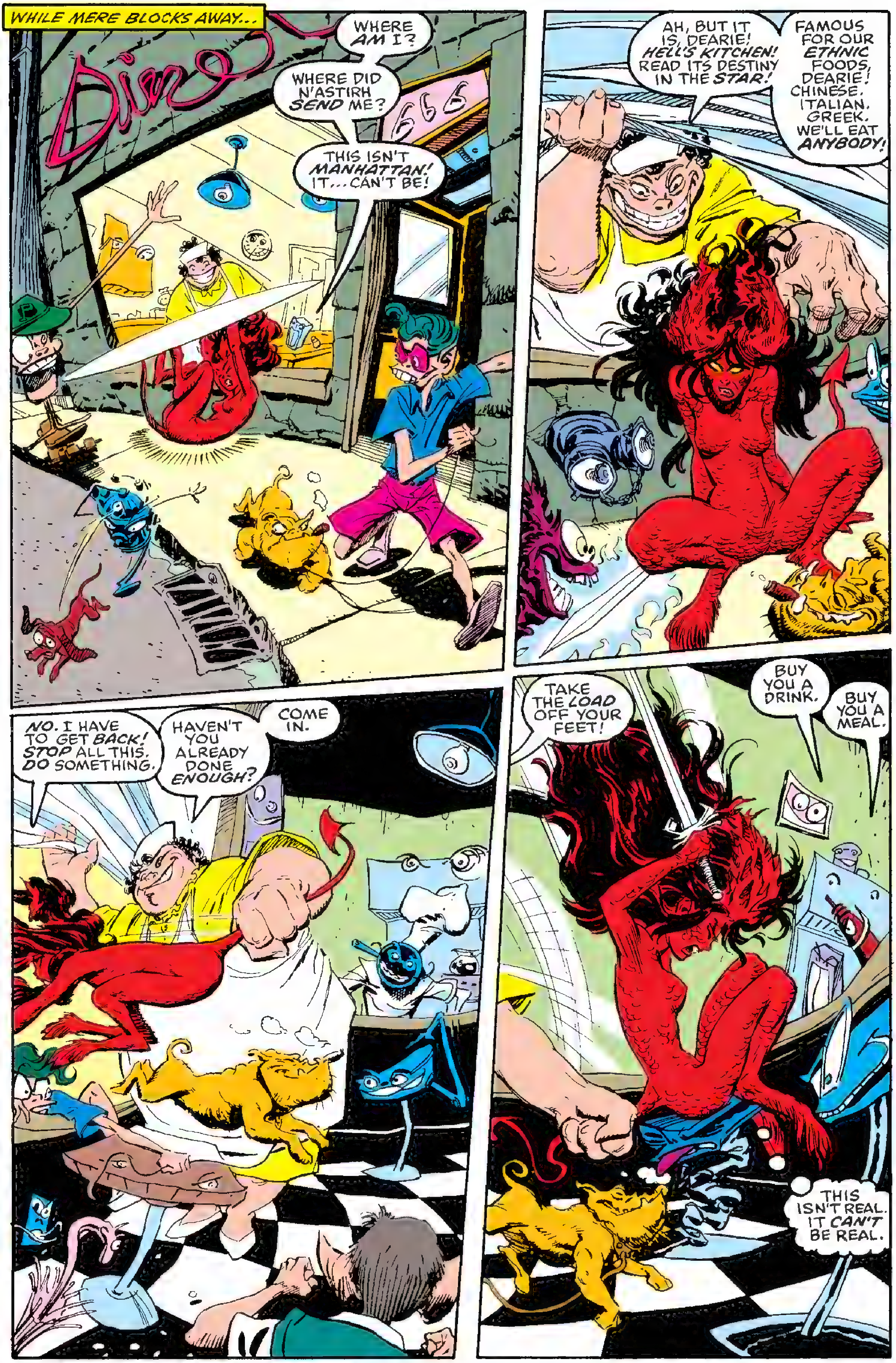

YOU SPEAK OF LIES, DARKCHILDE? I *HELPED* YOU... AND IN EXCHANGE I ASKED ONLY THAT YOU *ACCEPT* YOUR TRUE SELF... *EMBRACE* YOUR DARK HERITAGE.
BUT *HAVE* YOU--? HAVE YOU *TRULY?*

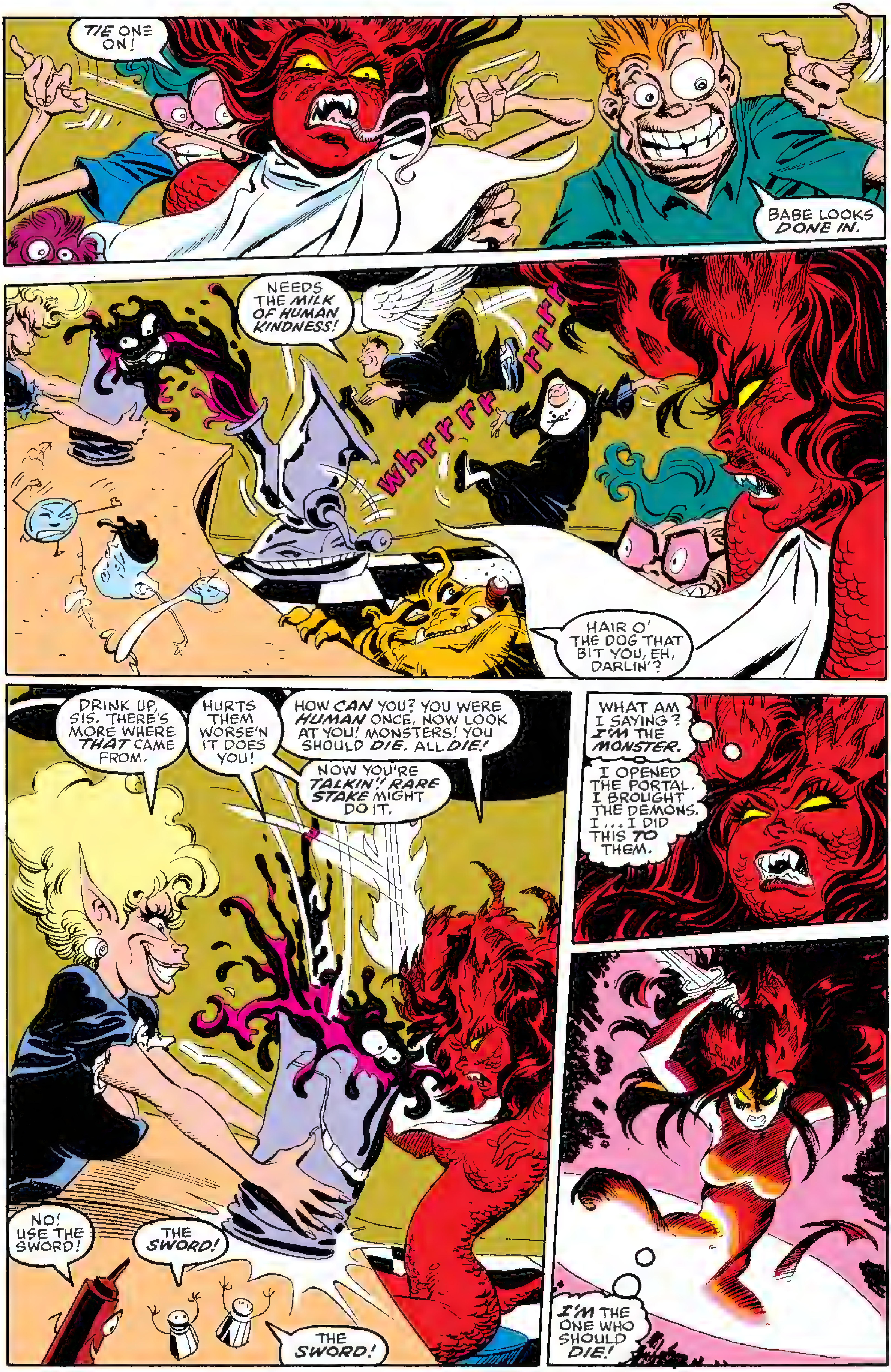

LOOK AT ME. WHAT OTHER ANSWER IS THERE--?
OUR BEAUTIFUL DARKCHILDE!
WE LOVE YOU LIKE THIS!
RULE US!
ALWAYS!
YOU DARE TO BOW DOWN BEFORE HER?
S'YM IS YOUR LORD, NOW.
IT WAS A TRICK, YOU ARROGANT LITTLE FOOL. AND YOU FELL FOR IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF NOW, EH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF S'YM?
S'YM... LORD OF LIMBO... AND SOON TO BE LORD OF THIS WORLD!
DROP HER, S'YM. BY AGREEMENT, SHE IS MINE.
THE TIME FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN US, N'ASTIRH...


...IS OVER!
SKRASH!
THEY FIGHT FOR POSSESSION OF THE DARKCHILDE... AND OF HER WORLD.
PHYSICAL POWER YOU HAVE IN ABUNDANCE, S'YM, GIFT OF THE TRANS-MODE VIRUS...
...THAT MADE YOU A THING OF CIRCUITS ...NO LONGER FLESH AND BLOOD.
KHROOM!
YEIIII!
HOW DID SHE BECOME THIS CRINGING MONSTER? THIS WRETCHED SYMBOL?
THE VIRUS HAS MADE ME IMPERVIOUS TO THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF YOUR MAGICKS, SORCERER!
A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF CONQUEST, TO BE WORN OR TOSSED AWAY. A POSSESSION. A TROPHY. A THING.
MAINTAINING THE TRANSPORT DISC AND PENTAGRAM REQUIRES GREAT EFFORT...
...AND MY POWER IS STRETCHED THIN. THAT WILL NOT ALWAYS BE TRUE, S'YM...
...AND STRENGTH ALONE WILL NOT GAIN YOU YOUR PRIZE, WHILE I HAVE MAGICK AT MY FINGERTIPS!

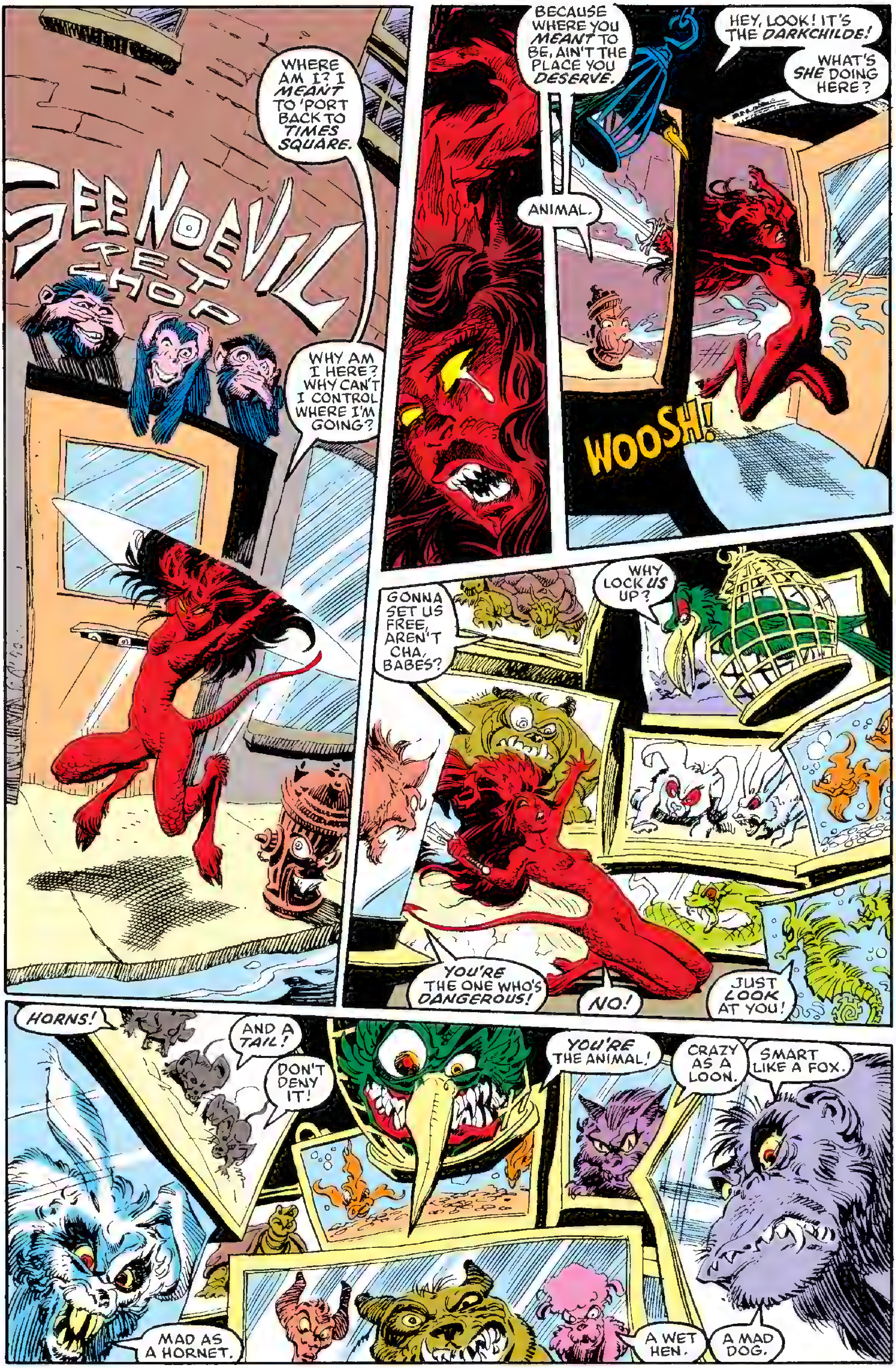

N'ASTIRH 'PORTED HER *AWAY!*
ILLYANA PAID FOR OUR PASSAGE TO EARTH WITH THE PRICE OF HER SOUL.
WE MUST *SAVE* HER, SELFRIENDS.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE *PORTAL?*
WHAT CAN *WE* DO ABOUT *THAT?*
'BERTO, *LOOK! SHIPS!*
WITH *DEMONS* BAYIN' AT THEIR HEELS!
WHO *ARE* THEY?
WHAT'RE THEY *DOING?*
IT IS POSSIBLE, SELFRIEN*DANI*, THAT THEY ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE *PENTAGRAM?*
DEMONS SEEM REAL BOTHERED. BET YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, 'LOCK.
N'ASTIRH'S *FORGOTTEN* US AND S'YM DOESN'T CARE *WHAT* WE DO! WE CAN GET AWAY EASY.
LET'S GET UP THERE AND *HELP!*
BUT WHAT ABOUT *ILLYANA?*

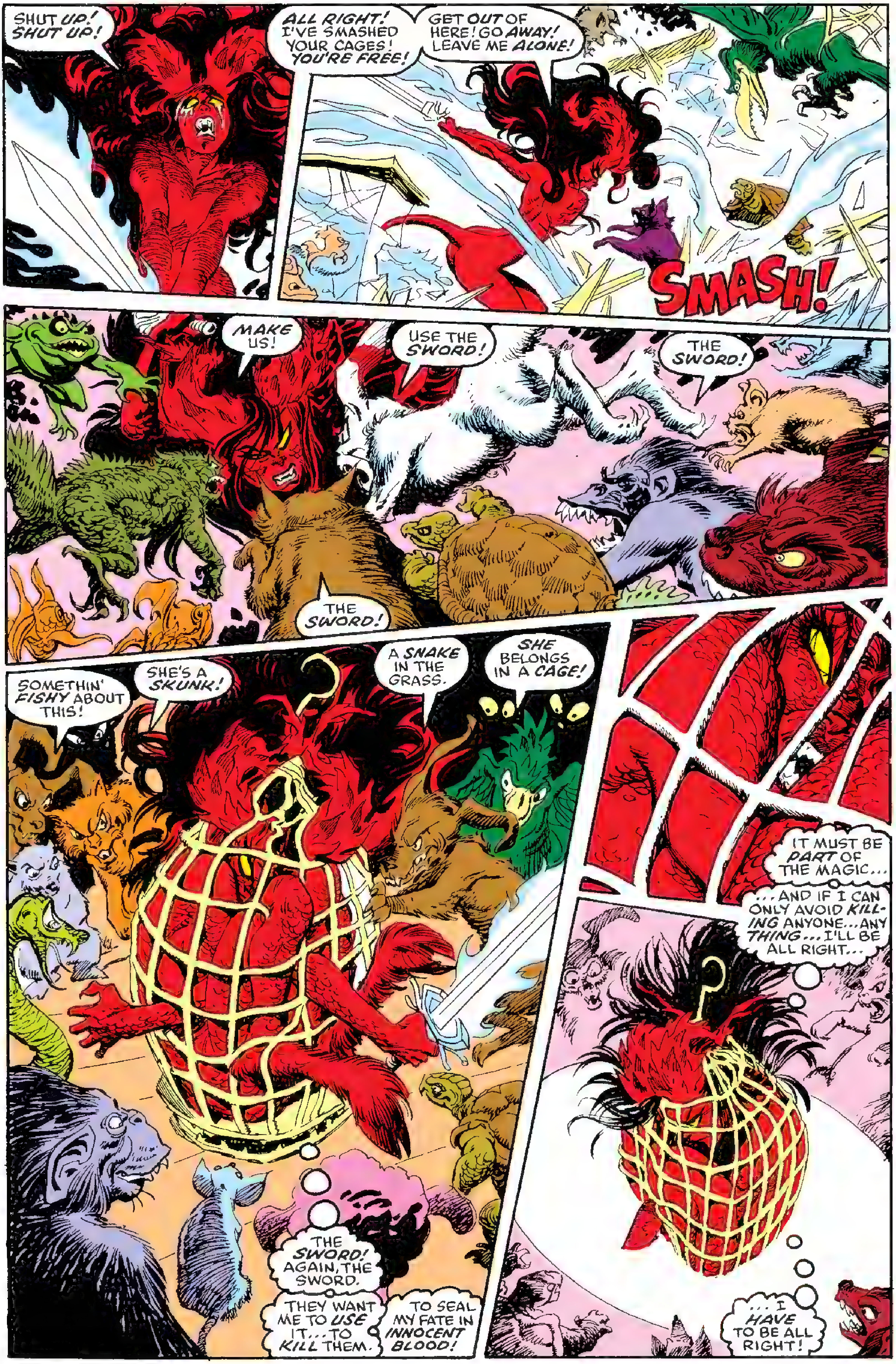
PENTAGRAM IS PART OF MAGICK, SELFRIEND RAHNE. SELF SUSPECTS, IT IS THE MAIN PART.
IF SELFRIENDS CAN DISRUPT IT, PERHAPS MAGICK WILL FAIL.
SONY
Suntory Royal
Coca-Cola
AND ILLYANA WILL BE FREE OF HER DARKCHILDE CURSE! OH...I DO HOPE 'TIS TRUE!
BELOW US, DID YOU SEE? A DEMON DROPPED SOMEONE...
"...IT LOOKED LIKE A BOY. I WONDER WHAT N'ASTIRH CAN WANT WITH HIM?"*
*FIND OUT IN X-TERMINATORS #4. BOB


WHILE MERE BLOCKS AWAY...
Diner
666
WHERE AM I?
WHERE DID N'ASTIRH SEND ME?
THIS ISN'T MANHATTAN! IT... CAN'T BE!
AH, BUT IT IS, DEARIE! HELL'S KITCHEN! READ ITS DESTINY IN THE STAR!
FAMOUS FOR OUR ETHNIC FOODS, DEARIE! CHINESE. ITALIAN. GREEK. WE'LL EAT ANYBODY!
NO. I HAVE TO GET BACK! STOP ALL THIS. DO SOMETHING.
HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY DONE ENOUGH?
COME IN.
TAKE THE LOAD OFF YOUR FEET!
BUY YOU A DRINK.
BUY YOU A MEAL.
THIS ISN'T REAL. IT CAN'T BE REAL.

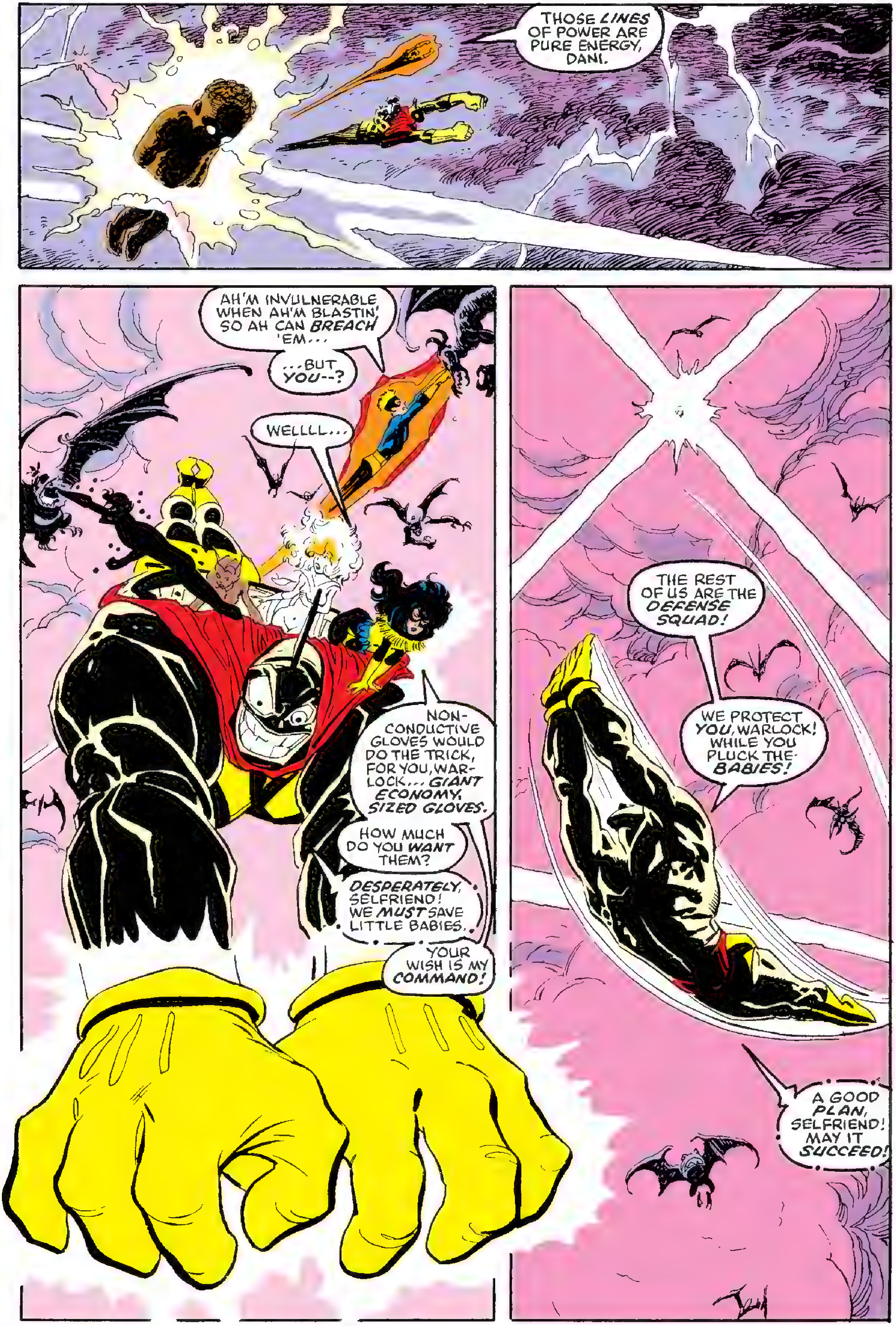

TIE ONE ON!
BABE LOOKS DONE IN.
NEEDS THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS!
whrrrrr rrrrr
HAIR O' THE DOG THAT BIT YOU, EH, DARLIN'?
DRINK UP, SIS. THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.
HURTS THEM WORSE'N IT DOES YOU!
HOW CAN YOU? YOU WERE HUMAN ONCE. NOW LOOK AT YOU! MONSTERS! YOU SHOULD DIE. ALL DIE!
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'! RARE STAKE MIGHT DO IT.
NO! USE THE SWORD!
THE SWORD!
THE SWORD!
WHAT AM I SAYING? I'M THE MONSTER.
I OPENED THE PORTAL. I BROUGHT THE DEMONS. I... I DID THIS TO THEM.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD DIE!

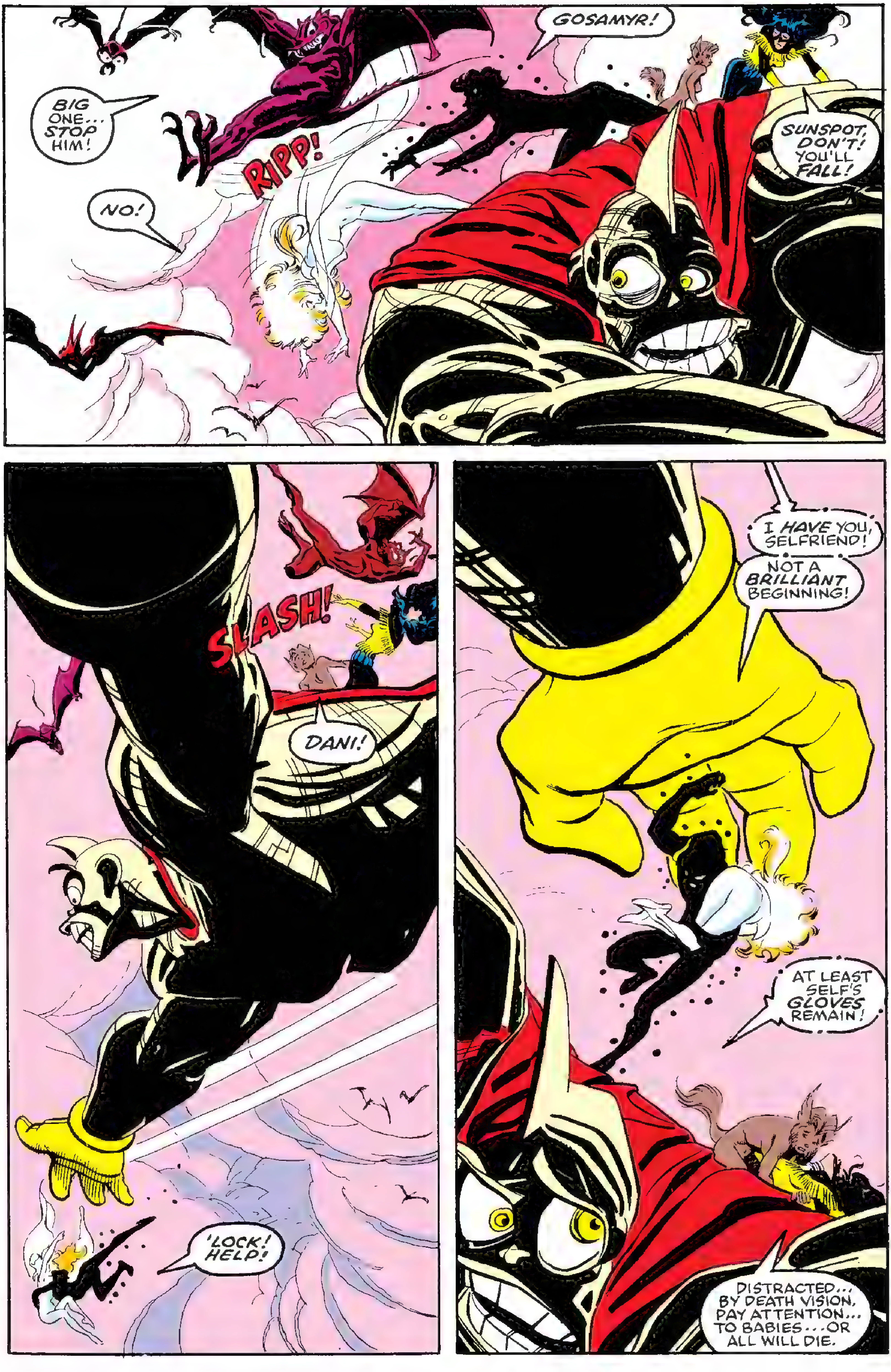
TIMES SQUARE.
LOOK! BABIES FLOATING AT THE PENTAGRAM'S POINTS!
N'ASTIRH TRICKED OUR TEAMMATE, WIZ KID, INTO CREATING A COMPUTER THAT PROCESSES MAGIC.
MAGIC'S HOLDING THE DISC OPEN. N'ASTIRH IS MAKING WIZ KID TYPE IN THE SPELLS.
OBSERVATION: NEW GROUP IN SHIPS ARE SAVING BABIES! AND WHERE BABY WAS REMOVED, PENTAGRAM DISPERSES!
WHO ARE YOU?
NEW MUTANTS!
WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM BUT... THE BABIES...
N'ASTIRH TRICKED ONE OF OUR TEAMMATES INTO OPENING A TELEPORTATION DISC BETWEEN EARTH AND LIMBO.
WE'RE RESPONSIBLE. SO WE HAVE TO CLOSE IT. IT'S ALL OUR FAULT!
WHAT ABOUT A TWO PRONGED ATTACK?
YOUR FAULT? WE THOUGHT IT WAS OUR FAULT!
GOTCHA. YOU NEW MUTANTS SAVE THE BABIES AND DISRUPT THE PENTAGRAM...
...WHILE US X-TERMINATORS BUST TAKI FREE OF N'ASTIRH'S CONTROL.
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'! IT TOOK BOTH TEAMS TO MAKE THIS MESS. MAYBE TOGETHER WE CAN STOP IT.

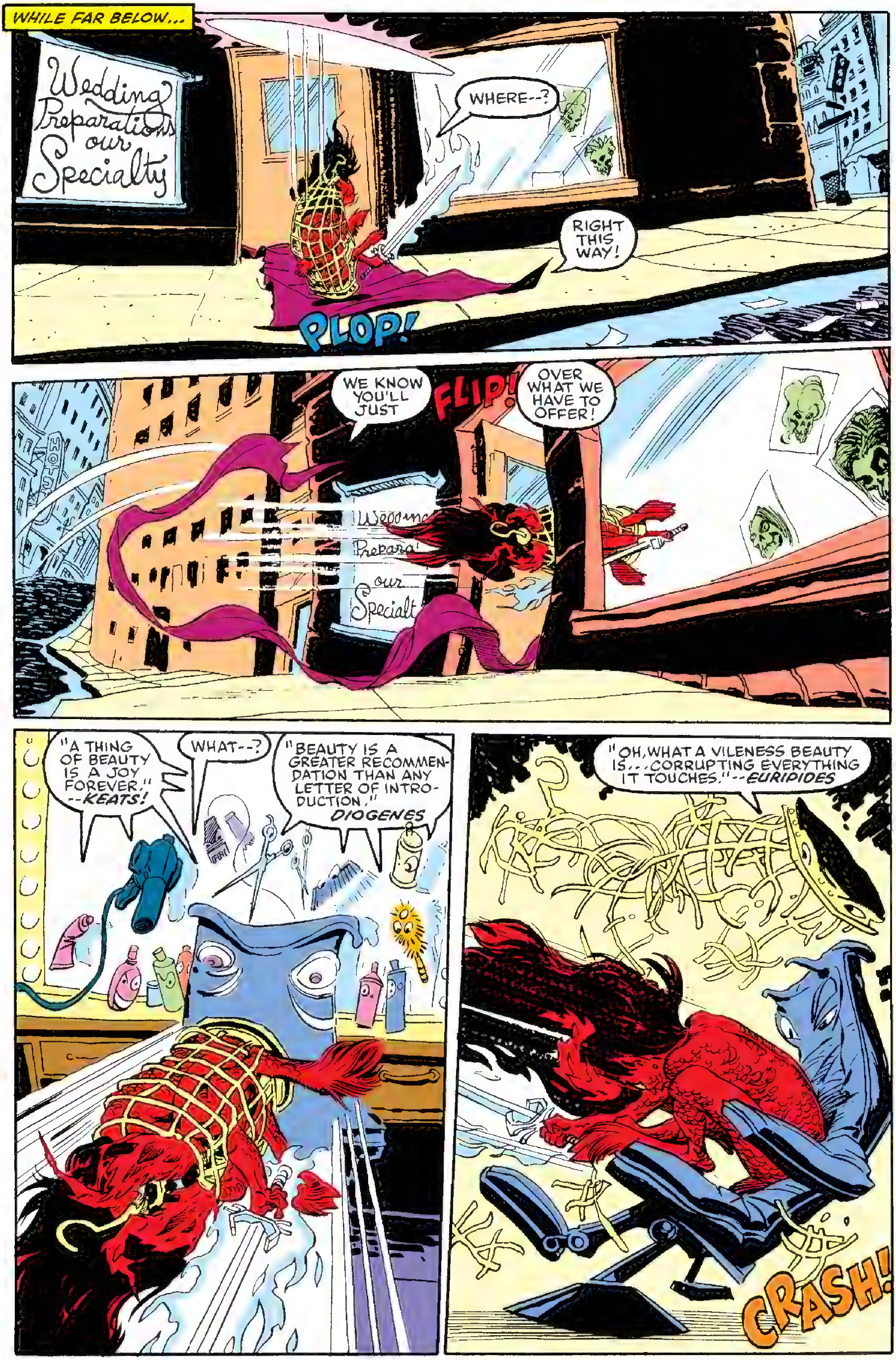

WHERE AM I? I *MEANT* TO 'PORT BACK TO *TIMES SQUARE.*
SEE NO EVIL
PET SHOP
WHY AM I HERE? WHY CAN'T I CONTROL WHERE I'M GOING?
BECAUSE WHERE YOU *MEANT* TO BE, AIN'T THE PLACE YOU *DESERVE.*
ANIMAL.
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE *DARKCHILDE!*
WHAT'S *SHE* DOING HERE?
WOOSH!
GONNA SET US FREE, AREN'T CHA, BABES?
WHY LOCK *US* UP?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S *DANGEROUS!*
NO!
JUST *LOOK* AT YOU!
HORNS!
AND A *TAIL!*
DON'T DENY IT!
YOU'RE THE ANIMAL!
CRAZY AS A LOON.
SMART LIKE A FOX.
MAD AS A HORNET.
A WET HEN.
A MAD DOG.


SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
ALL RIGHT! I'VE SMASHED YOUR CAGES! YOU'RE FREE!
GET OUT OF HERE! GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!
SMASH!
MAKE US!
USE THE SWORD!
THE SWORD!
THE SWORD!
SOMETHIN' FISHY ABOUT THIS!
SHE'S A SKUNK!
A SNAKE IN THE GRASS.
SHE BELONGS IN A CAGE!
THE SWORD! AGAIN, THE SWORD.
THEY WANT ME TO USE IT... TO KILL THEM.
TO SEAL MY FATE IN INNOCENT BLOOD!
IT MUST BE PART OF THE MAGIC...
...AND IF I CAN ONLY AVOID KILLING ANYONE... ANYTHING... I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
... I HAVE TO BE ALL RIGHT!

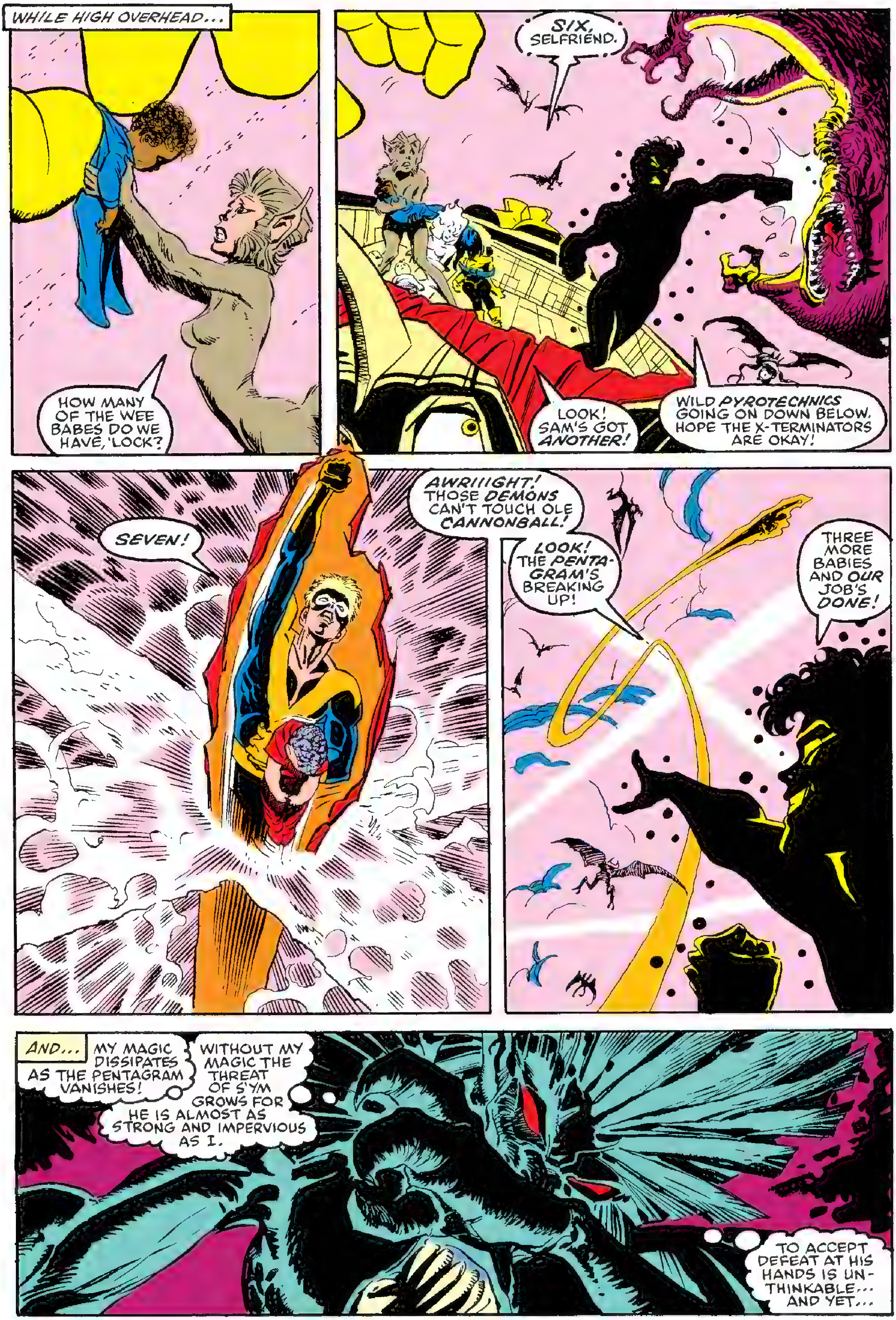
*HIGH OVERHEAD, DEMONS SWARM, AS THE **NEW MUTANTS**, RUSH TO FREE INFANTS LOCKED IN A MYSTIC SPELL...*

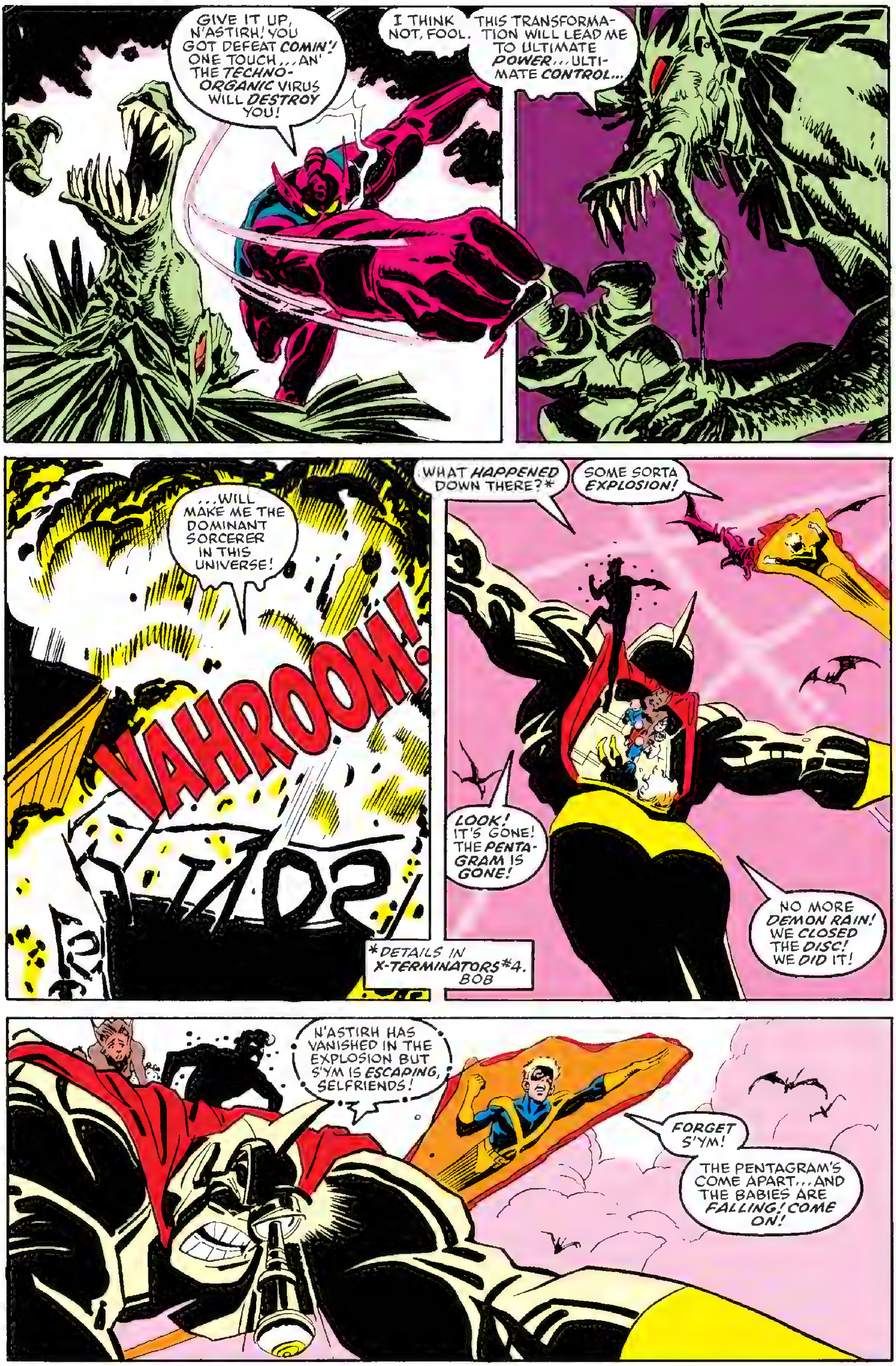

THOSE *LINES* OF POWER ARE PURE ENERGY, DANI.
AH'M INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN' SO AH CAN *BREACH* 'EM...
...BUT *YOU*--?
WELLLL...
NON-CONDUCTIVE GLOVES WOULD DO THE TRICK, FOR YOU, WARLOCK... *GIANT ECONOMY SIZED GLOVES.*
HOW MUCH DO YOU *WANT* THEM?
DESPERATELY, SELFRIEND! WE *MUST* SAVE LITTLE BABIES.
YOUR WISH IS MY *COMMAND!*
THE REST OF US ARE THE *DEFENSE SQUAD!*
WE PROTECT *YOU,* WARLOCK! WHILE YOU PLUCK THE *BABIES!*
A GOOD *PLAN,* SELFRIEND! MAY IT *SUCCEED!*

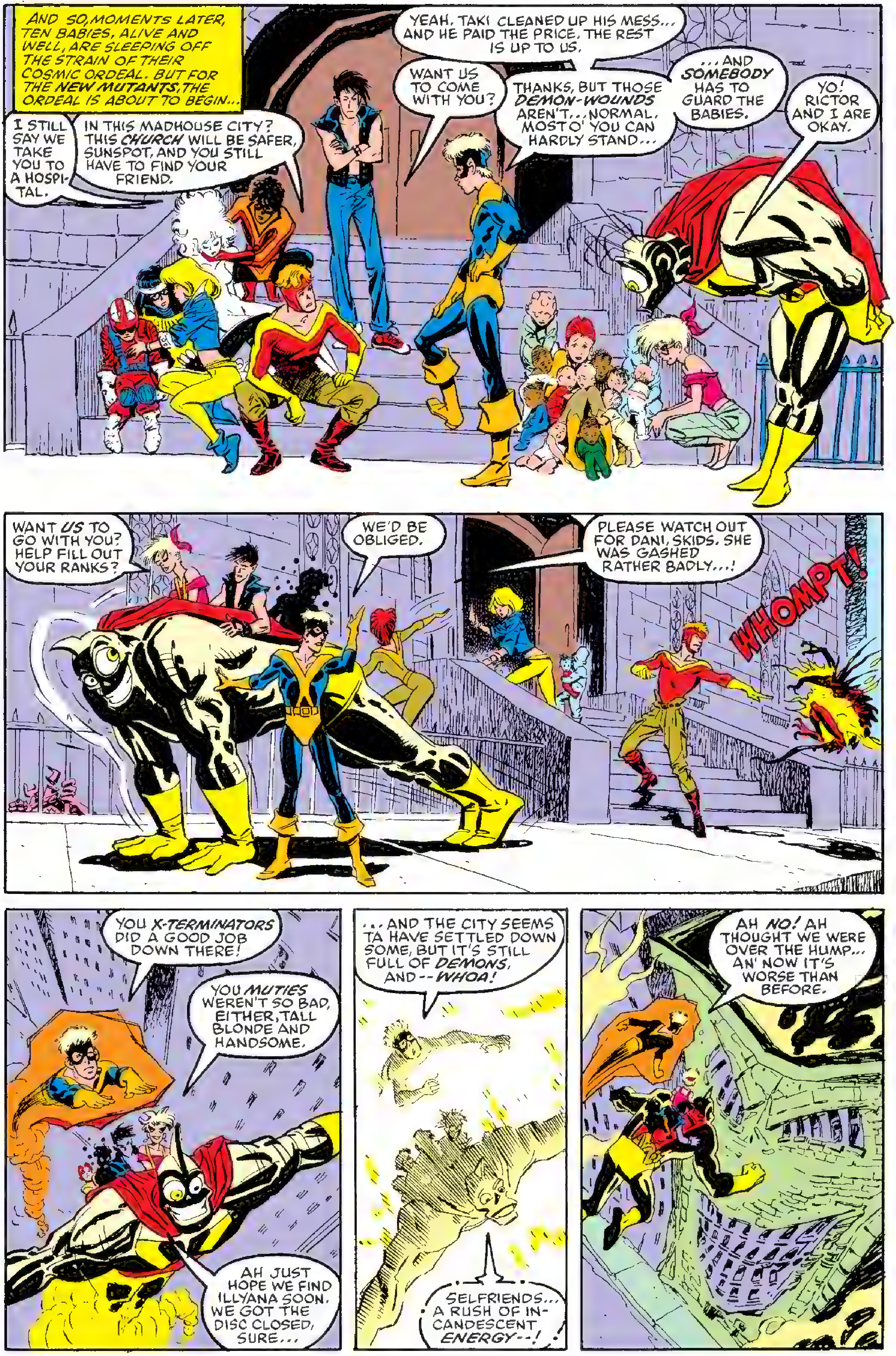

BIG ONE... STOP HIM!
RIPP!
NO!
GOSAMYR!
SUNSPOT, DON'T! YOU'LL FALL!
SLASH!
DANI!
'LOCK! HELP!
I HAVE YOU, SELFRIEND!
NOT A BRILLIANT BEGINNING!
AT LEAST SELF'S GLOVES REMAIN!
DISTRACTED... BY DEATH VISION. PAY ATTENTION... TO BABIES...OR ALL WILL DIE.

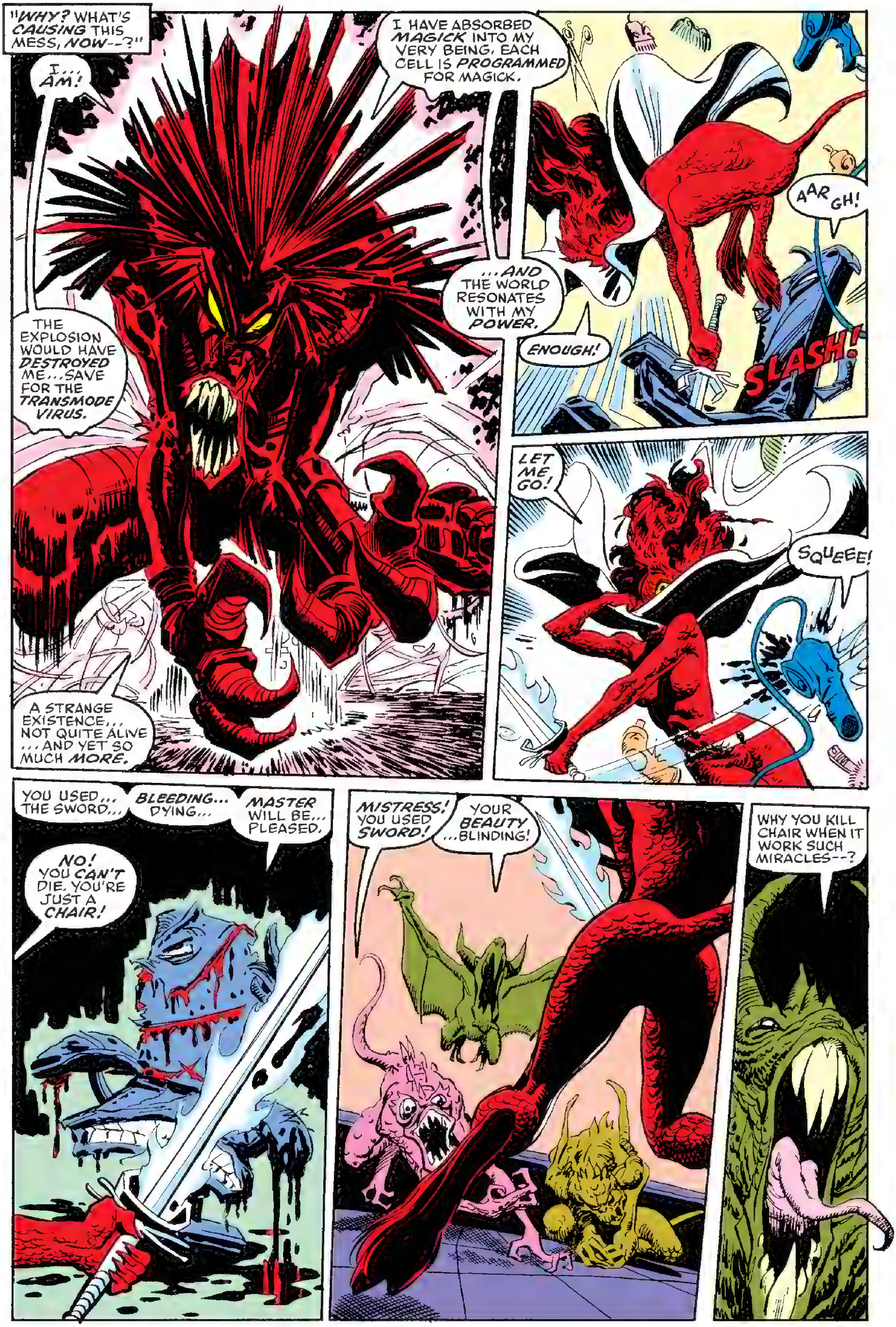

WHILE FAR BELOW...
Wedding Preparations our Specialty
WHERE--?
RIGHT THIS WAY!
PLOP!
WE KNOW YOU'LL JUST
FLIP!
OVER WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!
"A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER." --KEATS!
WHAT--?
"BEAUTY IS A GREATER RECOMMENDATION THAN ANY LETTER OF INTRODUCTION." DIOGENES
"OH, WHAT A VILENESS BEAUTY IS... CORRUPTING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES." --EURIPIDES
CRASH!

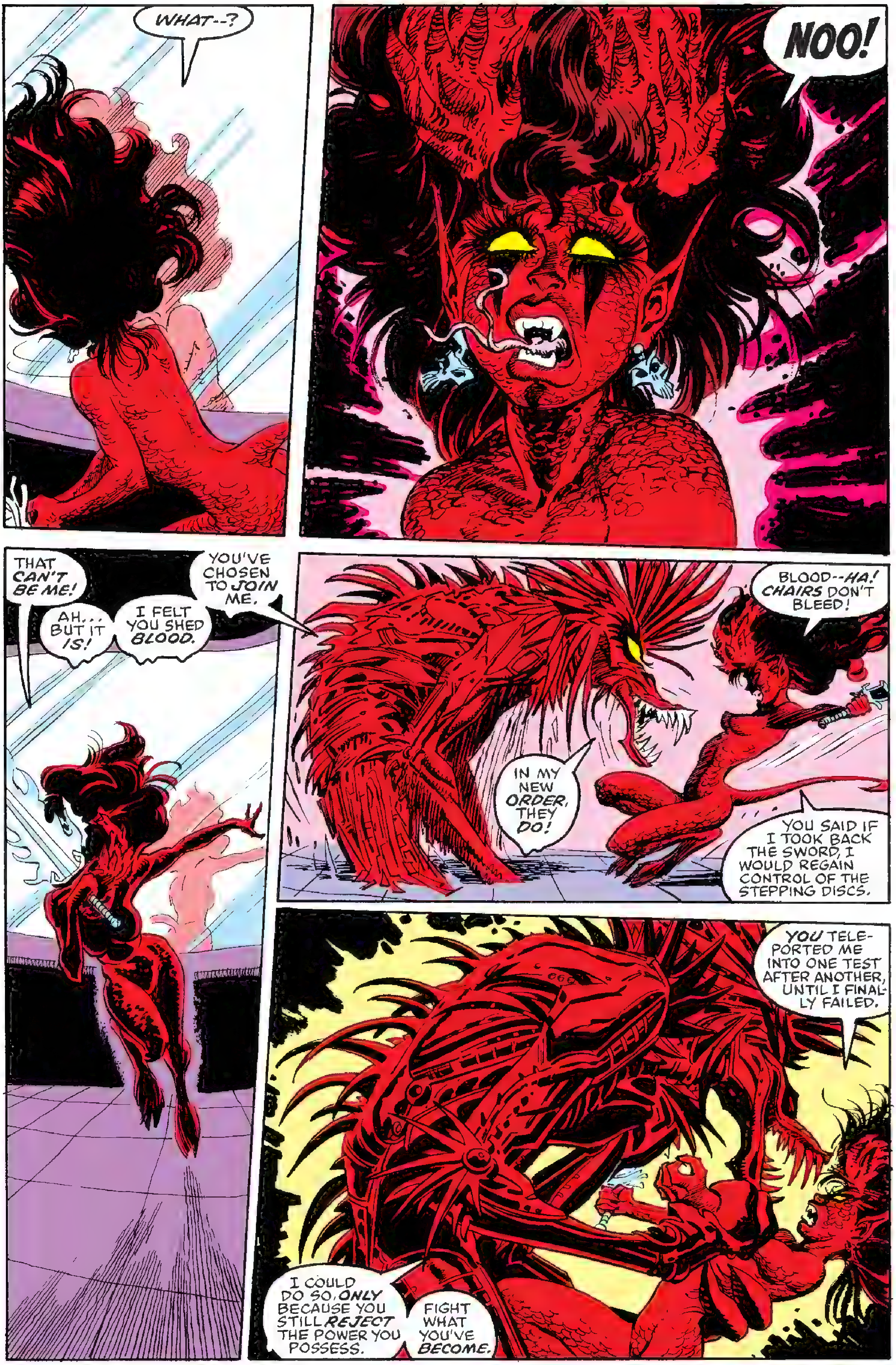
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! *LET ME GO!*
" TO KEEP BEAUTY IN ITS *PLACE*, IS TO MAKE ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL." --*SANTAYANA*
" THINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL, IF YOU LOVE THEM." --*ANOUILH*
WE LOVE *YOU*, DARK-CHILDE!
YOUR *HAIR!*
YOUR *EYES!*
YOUR *LIPS!*
YOUR *SKIN!*
YOUR *NAILS!*
ME FIRST!
NO *ME!*
CUT FIRST!
CURLERS!
SPRAY!
PERFECTION!

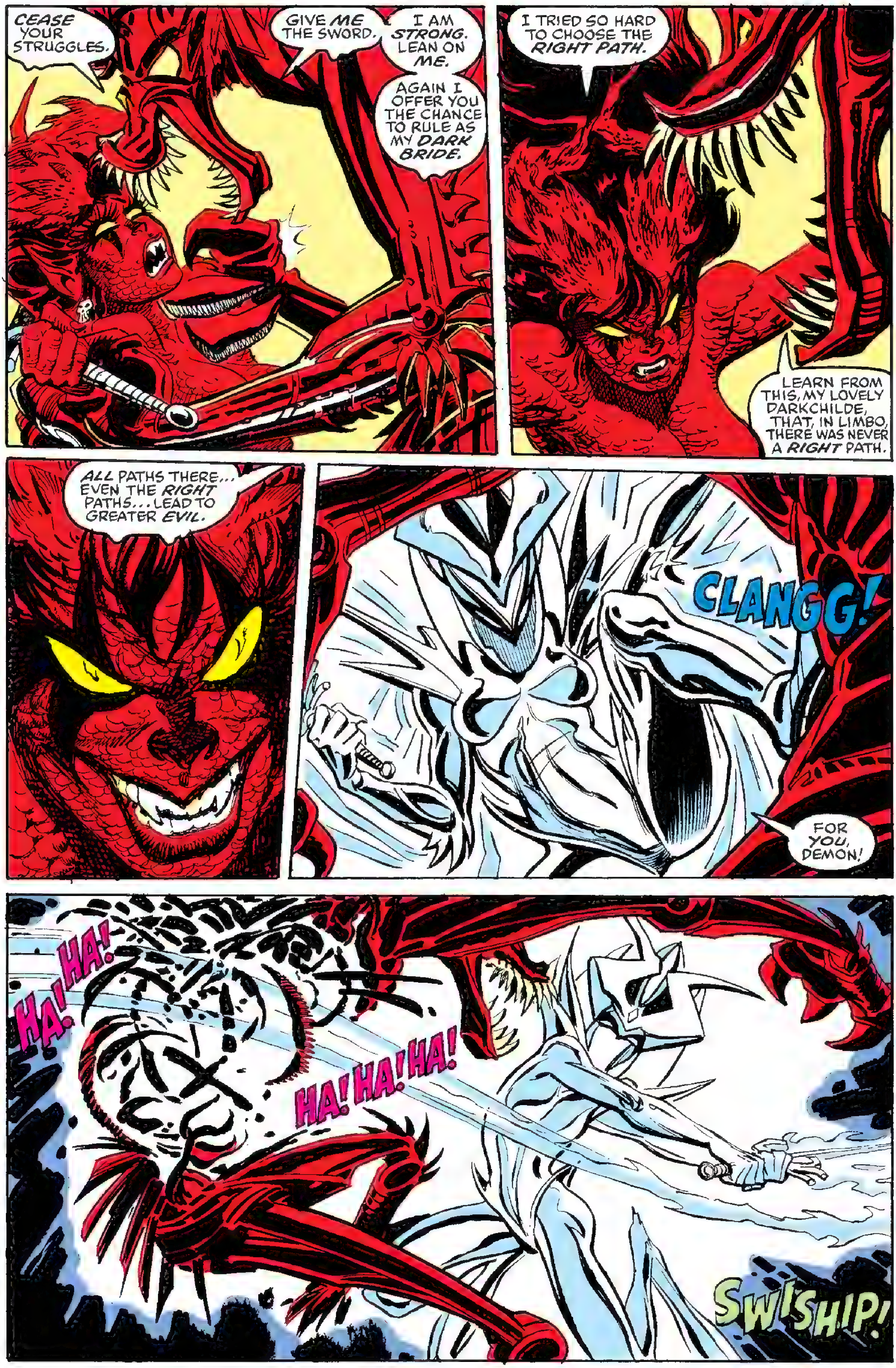

WHILE HIGH OVERHEAD...
HOW MANY OF THE WEE BABES DO WE HAVE, 'LOCK?
SIX, SELFRIEND.
LOOK! SAM'S GOT ANOTHER!
WILD PYROTECHNICS GOING ON DOWN BELOW. HOPE THE X-TERMINATORS ARE OKAY!
SEVEN!
AWRIIIGHT! THOSE DEMONS CAN'T TOUCH OLE CANNONBALL!
LOOK! THE PENTAGRAM'S BREAKING UP!
THREE MORE BABIES AND OUR JOB'S DONE!
AND...
MY MAGIC DISSIPATES AS THE PENTAGRAM VANISHES!
WITHOUT MY MAGIC THE THREAT OF S'YM GROWS FOR HE IS ALMOST AS STRONG AND IMPERVIOUS AS I.
TO ACCEPT DEFEAT AT HIS HANDS IS UNTHINKABLE... AND YET...

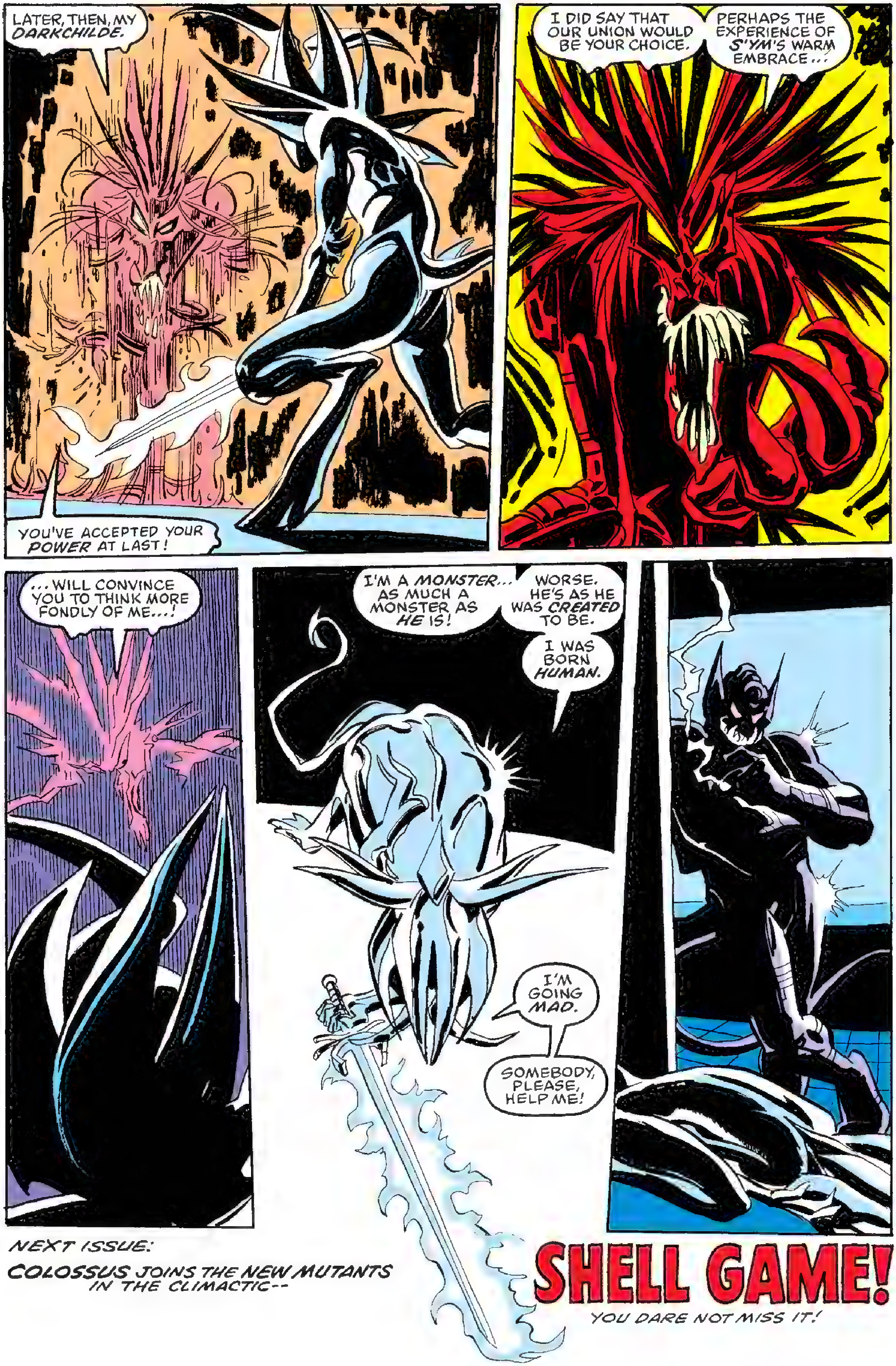

GIVE IT UP, N'ASTIRH! YOU GOT DEFEAT *COMIN'!* ONE TOUCH... AN' THE *TECHNO-ORGANIC* VIRUS WILL *DESTROY* YOU!
I THINK NOT, FOOL.
THIS TRANSFORMATION WILL LEAD ME TO ULTIMATE *POWER*... ULTIMATE *CONTROL*...
...WILL MAKE ME THE DOMINANT SORCERER IN THIS UNIVERSE!
VAHROOM!
WHAT *HAPPENED* DOWN THERE?*
SOME SORTA *EXPLOSION!*
LOOK! IT'S GONE! THE *PENTAGRAM* IS *GONE!*
NO MORE *DEMON RAIN!* WE *CLOSED* THE *DISC!* WE *DID* IT!
*DETAILS IN X-TERMINATORS*4. BOB
N'ASTIRH HAS VANISHED IN THE EXPLOSION BUT S'YM IS *ESCAPING,* SELFRIENDS!
FORGET S'YM!
THE PENTAGRAM'S COME APART... AND THE BABIES ARE *FALLING! COME ON!*


AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, TEN BABIES, ALIVE AND WELL, ARE SLEEPING OFF THE STRAIN OF THEIR COSMIC ORDEAL. BUT FOR THE *NEW MUTANTS*, THE ORDEAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...
I STILL SAY WE TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL.
IN THIS MADHOUSE CITY? THIS *CHURCH* WILL BE SAFER, SUNSPOT, AND YOU STILL HAVE TO FIND YOUR FRIEND.
YEAH. TAKI CLEANED UP HIS MESS... AND HE PAID THE PRICE. THE REST IS UP TO US.
WANT US TO COME WITH YOU?
THANKS, BUT THOSE *DEMON-WOUNDS* AREN'T... NORMAL. MOST O' YOU CAN HARDLY STAND...
...AND *SOMEBODY* HAS TO GUARD THE BABIES.
YO! RICTOR AND I ARE OKAY.
WANT *US* TO GO WITH YOU? HELP FILL OUT YOUR RANKS?
WE'D BE OBLIGED.
PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR DANI, SKIDS. SHE WAS GASHED RATHER BADLY...!
WHOMPT!
YOU *X-TERMINATORS* DID A GOOD JOB DOWN THERE!
YOU *MUTIES* WEREN'T SO BAD, EITHER, TALL BLONDE AND HANDSOME.
AH JUST HOPE WE FIND ILLYANA SOON. WE GOT THE DISC CLOSED, SURE...
...AND THE CITY SEEMS TA HAVE SETTLED DOWN SOME, BUT IT'S STILL FULL OF *DEMONS*, AND -- *WHOA!*
SELFRIENDS... A RUSH OF INCANDESCENT *ENERGY*--!
AH *NO!* AH THOUGHT WE WERE OVER THE HUMP... AN' NOW IT'S WORSE THAN BEFORE.


"WHY? WHAT'S CAUSING THIS MESS, NOW--?"
I... AM!
I HAVE ABSORBED MAGICK INTO MY VERY BEING. EACH CELL IS PROGRAMMED FOR MAGICK.
...AND THE WORLD RESONATES WITH MY POWER.
THE EXPLOSION WOULD HAVE DESTROYED ME... SAVE FOR THE TRANSMODE VIRUS.
A STRANGE EXISTENCE... NOT QUITE ALIVE ...AND YET SO MUCH MORE.
ENOUGH!
AARGH!
SLASH!
LET ME GO!
SQUEEEE!
YOU USED... THE SWORD...
BLEEDING... DYING...
MASTER WILL BE... PLEASED.
NO! YOU CAN'T DIE. YOU'RE JUST A CHAIR!
MISTRESS! YOU USED SWORD!
YOUR BEAUTY ...BLINDING!
WHY YOU KILL CHAIR WHEN IT WORK SUCH MIRACLES--?


WHAT--?
NOO!
THAT *CAN'T BE ME!*
AH... BUT IT *IS!*
I FELT YOU SHED *BLOOD.*
YOU'VE CHOSEN TO *JOIN* ME.
BLOOD--*HA! CHAIRS* DON'T BLEED!
IN MY NEW *ORDER,* THEY *DO!*
YOU SAID IF I TOOK BACK THE SWORD, I WOULD REGAIN CONTROL OF THE STEPPING DISCS.
YOU TELEPORTED ME INTO ONE TEST AFTER ANOTHER, UNTIL I FINALLY FAILED.
I COULD DO SO, *ONLY* BECAUSE YOU STILL *REJECT* THE POWER YOU POSSESS.
FIGHT WHAT YOU'VE *BECOME.*


CEASE YOUR STRUGGLES.
GIVE *ME* THE SWORD.
I AM *STRONG.* LEAN ON *ME.*
AGAIN I OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO RULE AS MY *DARK BRIDE.*
I TRIED SO HARD TO CHOOSE THE *RIGHT PATH.*
LEARN FROM THIS, MY LOVELY DARKCHILDE, THAT, IN LIMBO, THERE WAS NEVER A *RIGHT* PATH.
ALL PATHS THERE... EVEN THE *RIGHT* PATHS... LEAD TO GREATER *EVIL.*
CLANGG!
FOR *YOU,* DEMON!
HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA!
SWISHIP!


LATER, THEN, MY DARKCHILDE.
YOU'VE ACCEPTED YOUR POWER AT LAST!
I DID SAY THAT OUR UNION WOULD BE YOUR CHOICE.
PERHAPS THE EXPERIENCE OF S'YM'S WARM EMBRACE...
...WILL CONVINCE YOU TO THINK MORE FONDLY OF ME...!
I'M A MONSTER... AS MUCH A MONSTER AS HE IS!
WORSE. HE'S AS HE WAS CREATED TO BE.
I WAS BORN HUMAN.
I'M GOING MAD.
SOMEBODY, PLEASE, HELP ME!
NEXT ISSUE:
COLOSSUS JOINS THE NEW MUTANTS IN THE CLIMACTIC--
SHELL GAME!
YOU DARE NOT MISS IT!

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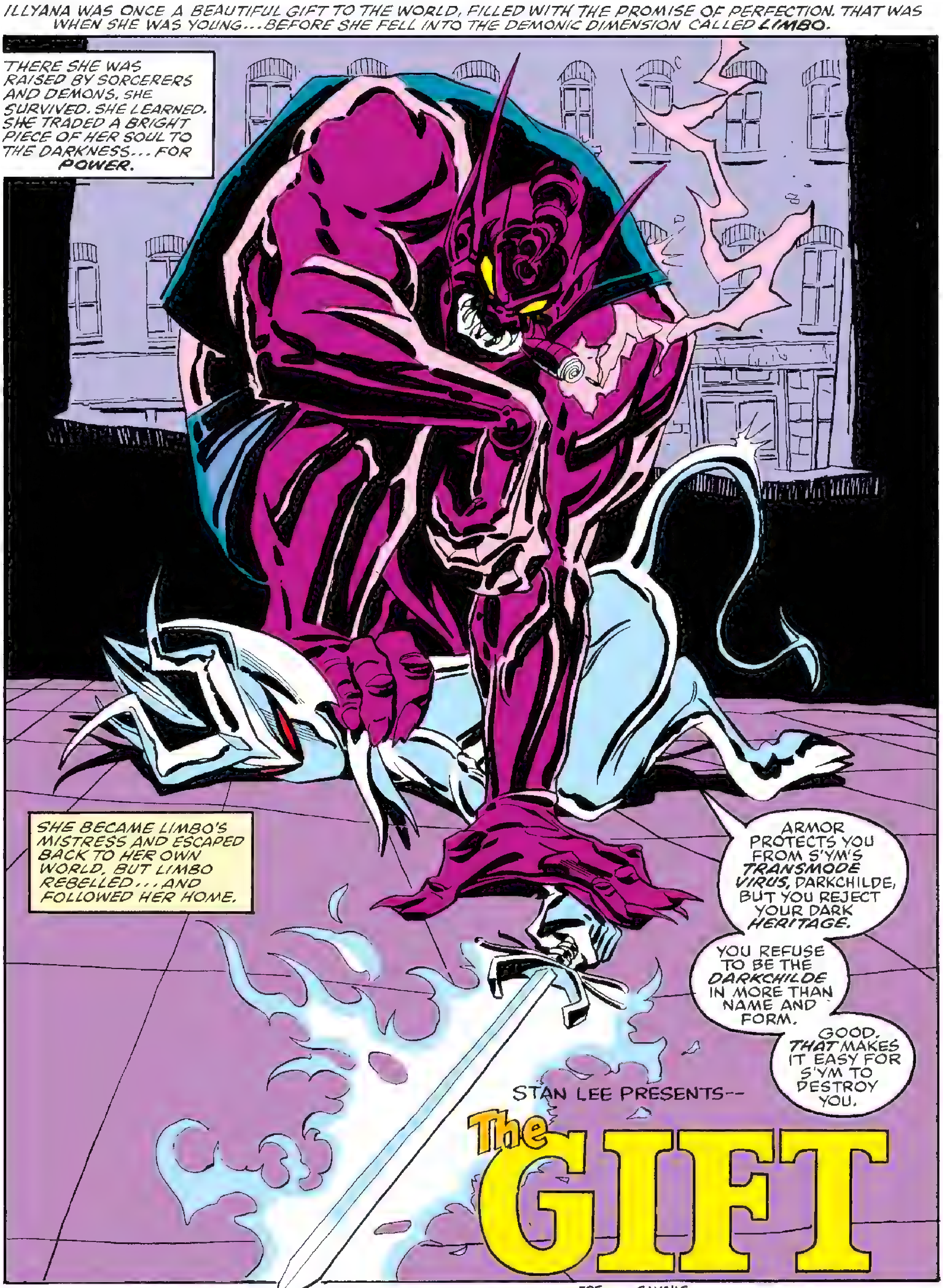
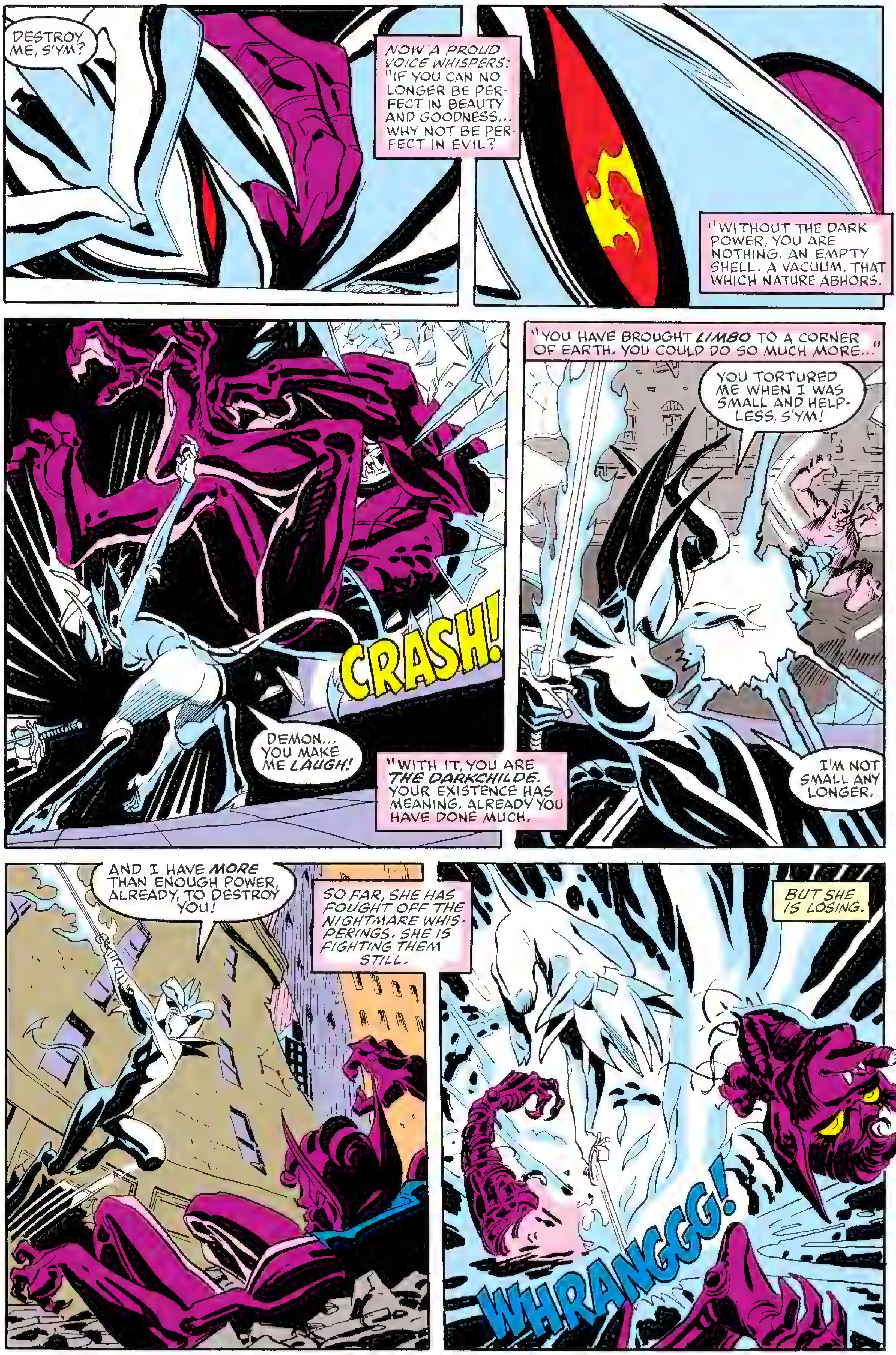
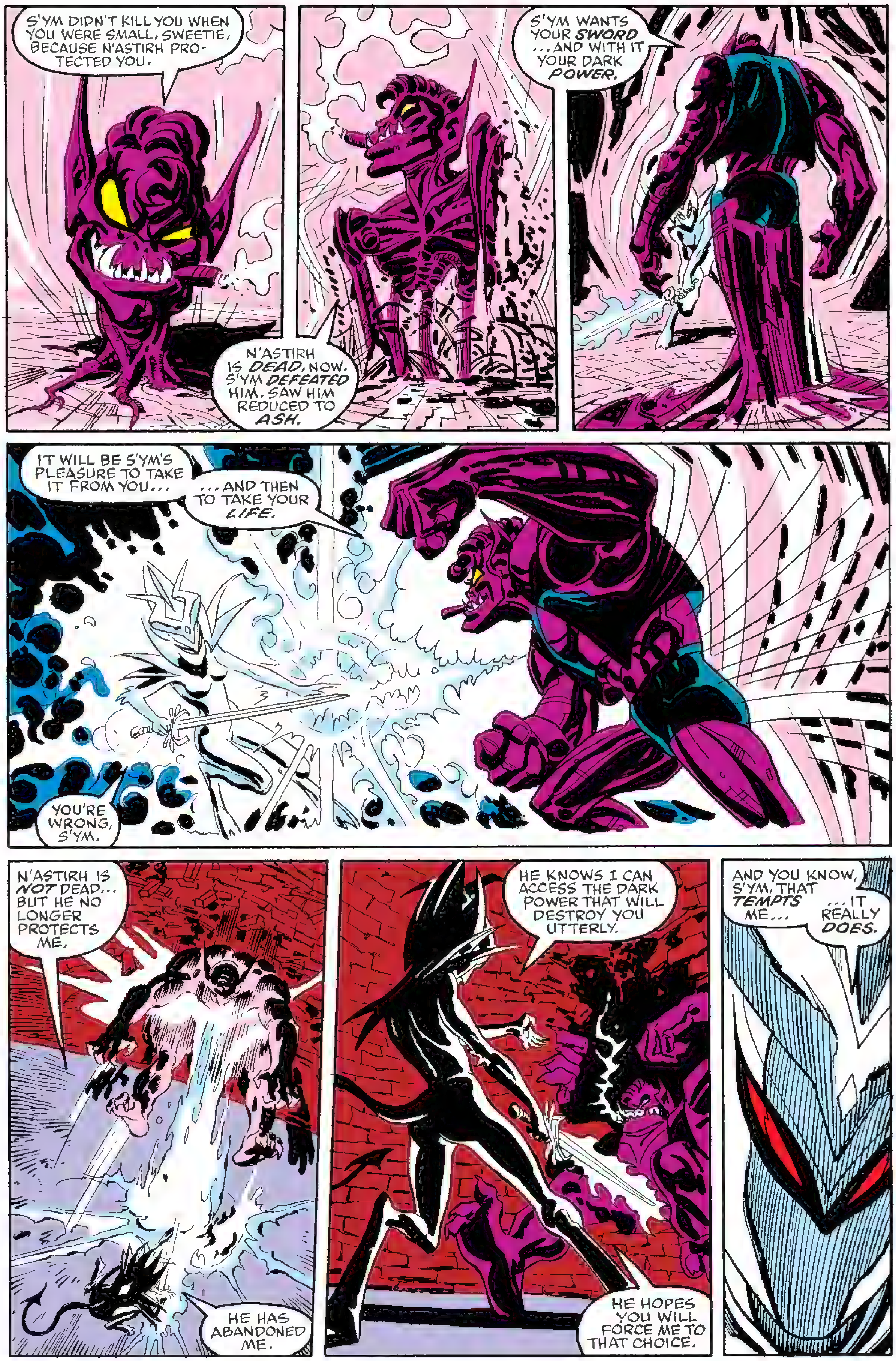
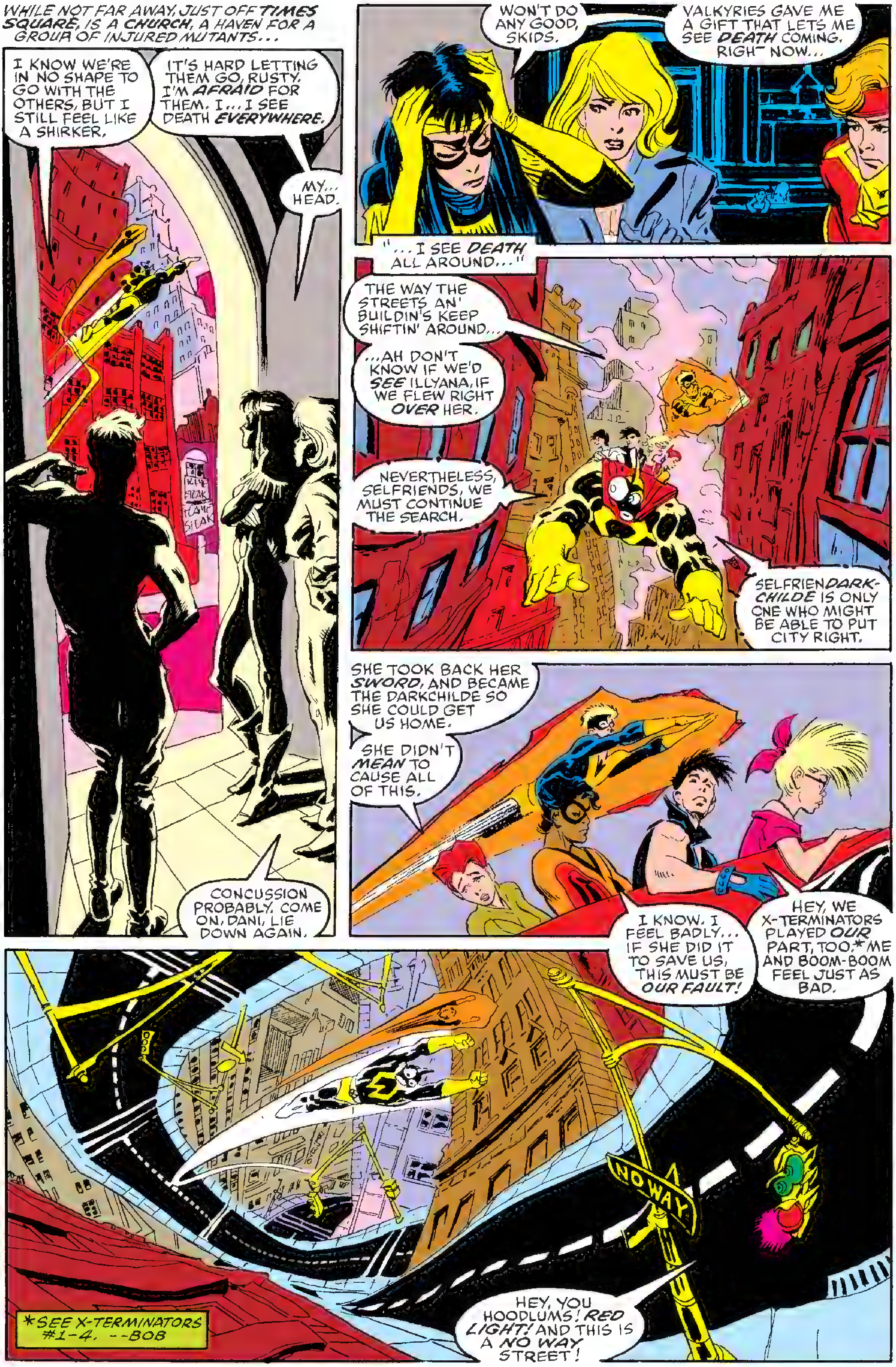
INFERNO™
THE•NEW
MUTANTS®
DOUBLE-SIZED SPECTACULAR!
THE STUNNING CONCLUSION OF THE ILLYANA™ SAGA!
DARKCHILDE NO MORE!

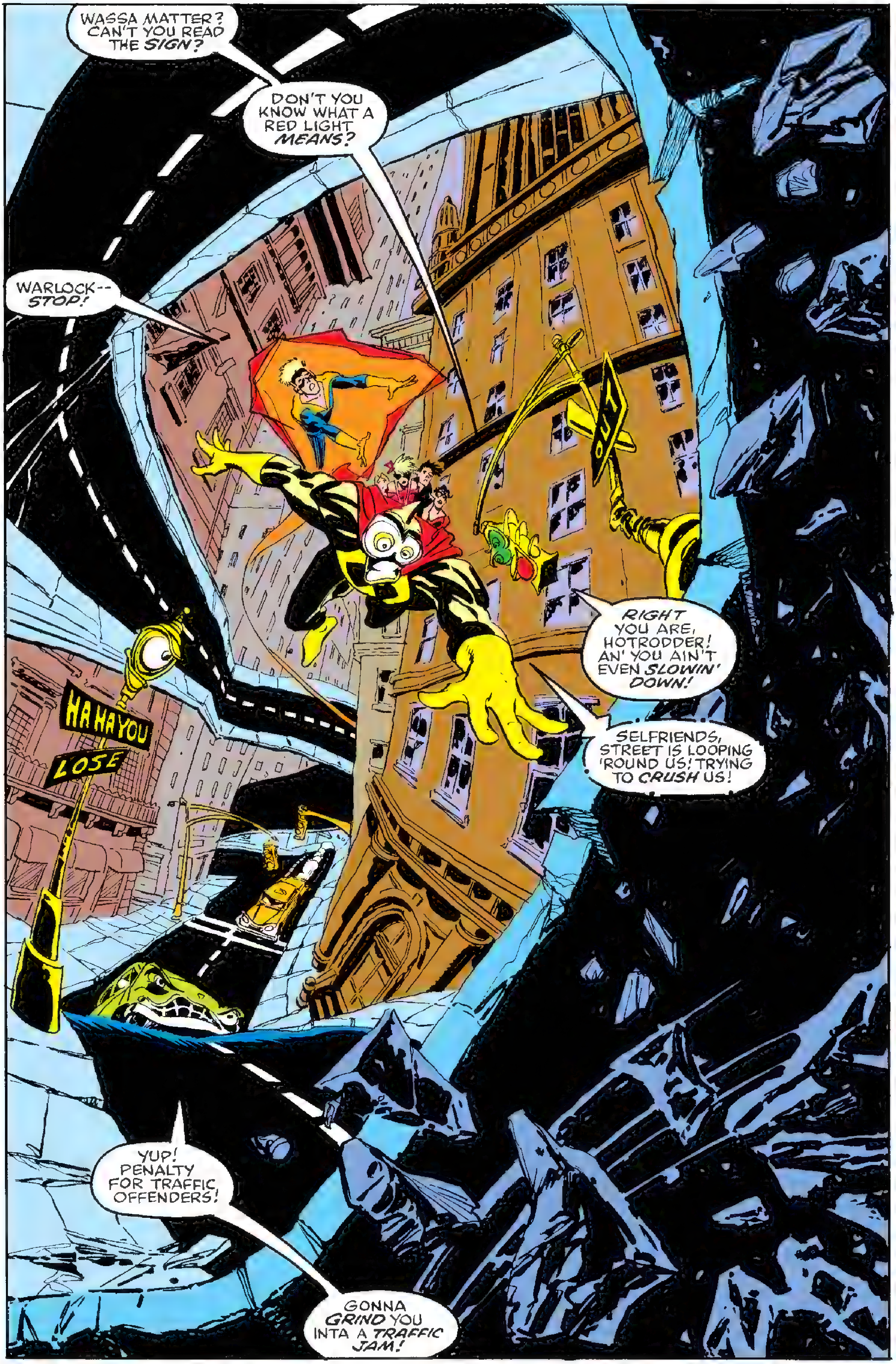

ILLYANA WAS ONCE A BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO THE WORLD, FILLED WITH THE PROMISE OF PERFECTION. THAT WAS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG... BEFORE SHE FELL INTO THE DEMONIC DIMENSION CALLED LIMBO.
THERE SHE WAS RAISED BY SORCERERS AND DEMONS. SHE SURVIVED. SHE LEARNED. SHE TRADED A BRIGHT PIECE OF HER SOUL TO THE DARKNESS... FOR POWER.
SHE BECAME LIMBO'S MISTRESS AND ESCAPED BACK TO HER OWN WORLD, BUT LIMBO REBELLED... AND FOLLOWED HER HOME.
ARMOR PROTECTS YOU FROM S'YM'S TRANSMODE VIRUS, DARKCHILDE, BUT YOU REJECT YOUR DARK HERITAGE.
YOU REFUSE TO BE THE DARKCHILDE IN MORE THAN NAME AND FORM.
GOOD. THAT MAKES IT EASY FOR S'YM TO DESTROY YOU.
STAN LEE PRESENTS--
The GIFT

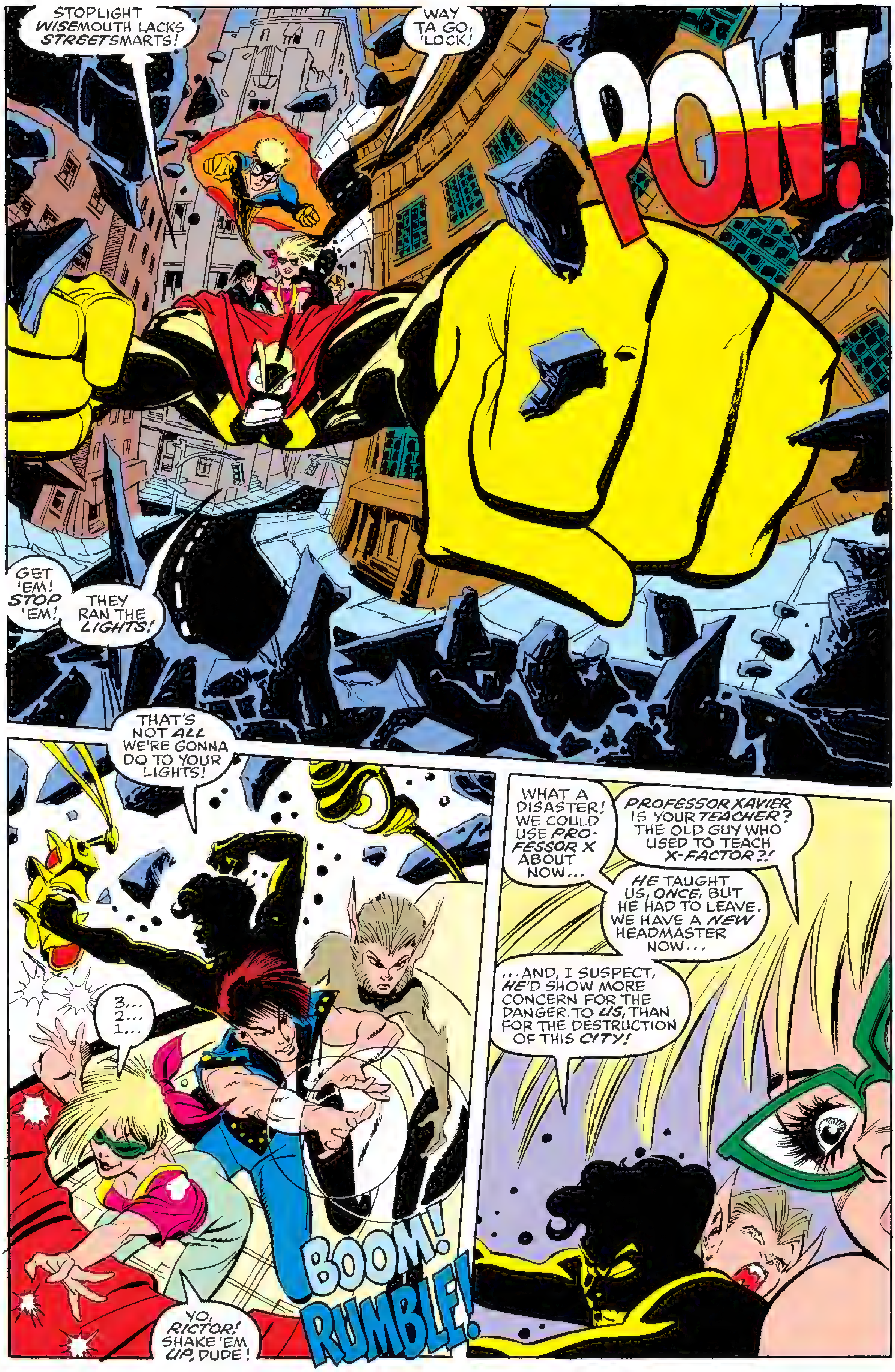
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · BRET BLEVINS PENCILER · AL WILLIAMSON & MIKE MANLEY INKERS · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

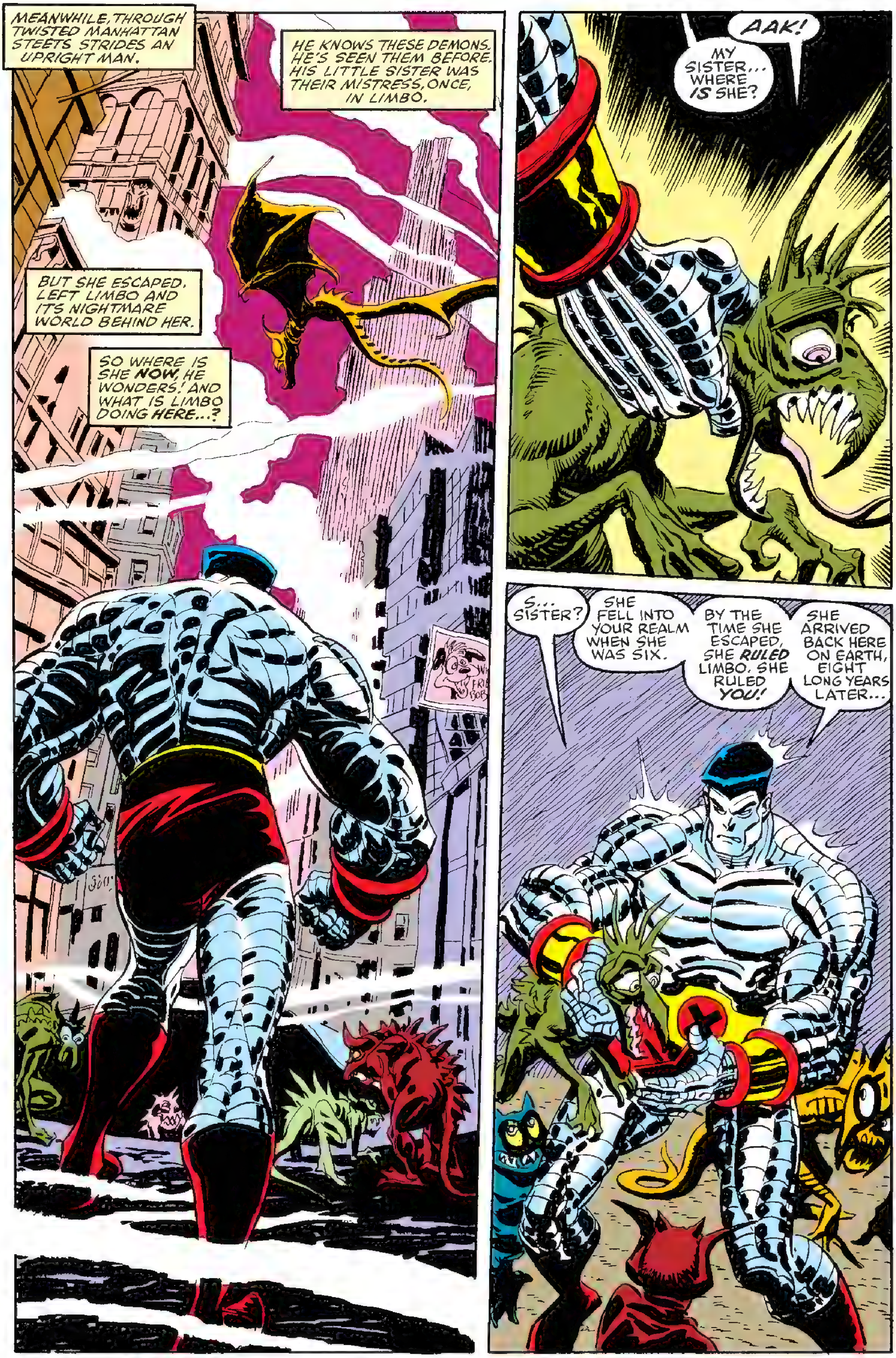

DESTROY ME, S'YM?
NOW A PROUD VOICE WHISPERS: "IF YOU CAN NO LONGER BE PERFECT IN BEAUTY AND GOODNESS... WHY NOT BE PERFECT IN EVIL?
"WITHOUT THE DARK POWER, YOU ARE NOTHING. AN EMPTY SHELL. A VACUUM. THAT WHICH NATURE ABHORS.
CRASH!
DEMON... YOU MAKE ME LAUGH!
"WITH IT, YOU ARE THE DARKCHILDE. YOUR EXISTENCE HAS MEANING. ALREADY YOU HAVE DONE MUCH.
"YOU HAVE BROUGHT LIMBO TO A CORNER OF EARTH. YOU COULD DO SO MUCH MORE..."
YOU TORTURED ME WHEN I WAS SMALL AND HELPLESS, S'YM!
I'M NOT SMALL ANY LONGER.
AND I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER, ALREADY, TO DESTROY YOU!
SO FAR, SHE HAS FOUGHT OFF THE NIGHTMARE WHISPERINGS. SHE IS FIGHTING THEM STILL.
BUT SHE IS LOSING.
WHRANGGG!

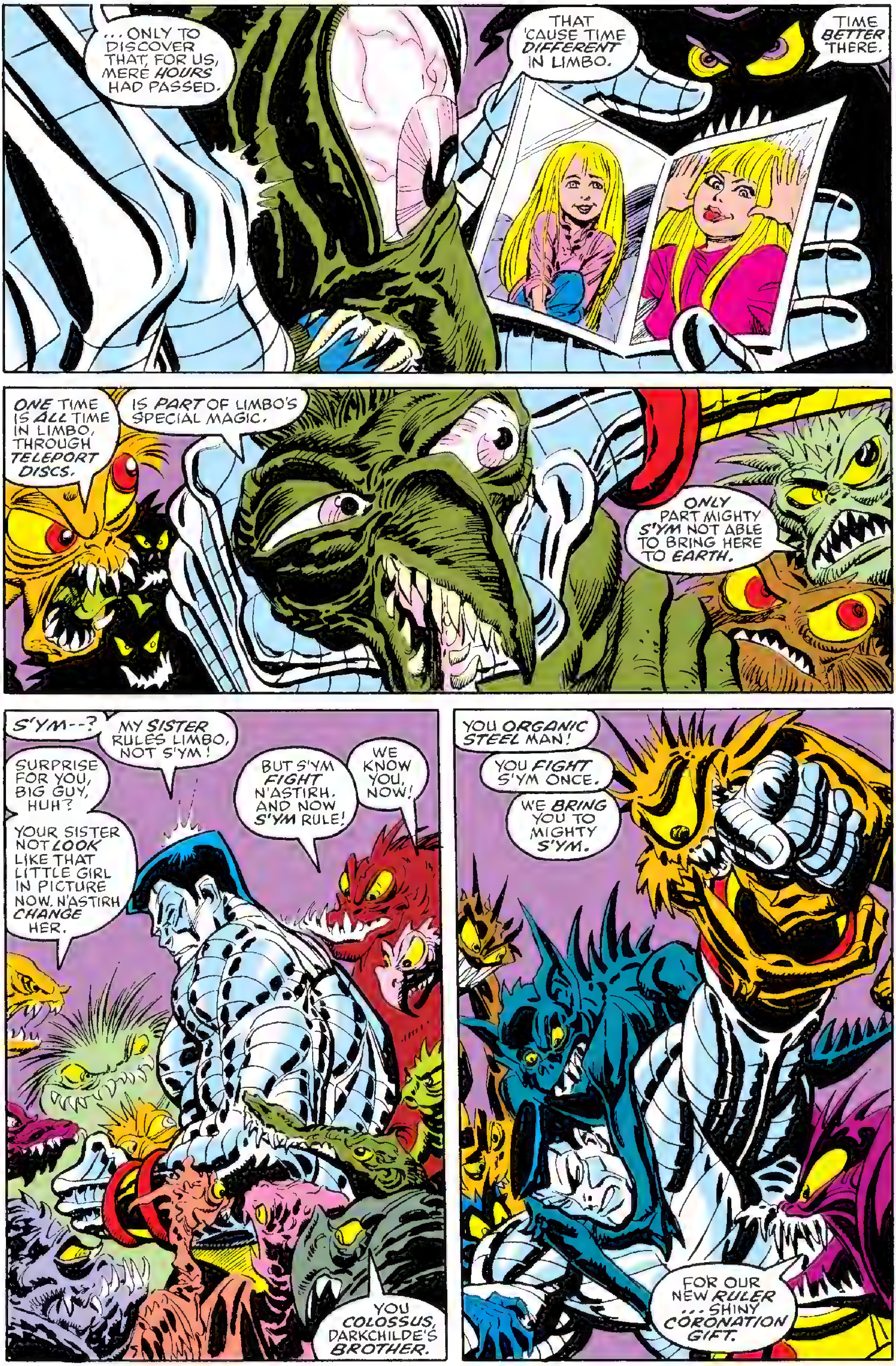

S'YM DIDN'T KILL YOU WHEN YOU WERE SMALL, SWEETIE, BECAUSE N'ASTIRH PROTECTED YOU.
N'ASTIRH IS *DEAD*, NOW. S'YM *DEFEATED* HIM. SAW HIM REDUCED TO *ASH*.
S'YM WANTS YOUR *SWORD* ...AND WITH IT YOUR DARK *POWER*.
IT WILL BE S'YM'S PLEASURE TO TAKE IT FROM YOU...
...AND THEN TO TAKE YOUR *LIFE*.
YOU'RE WRONG, S'YM.
N'ASTIRH IS *NOT* DEAD... BUT HE NO LONGER PROTECTS ME.
HE HAS ABANDONED ME.
HE KNOWS I CAN ACCESS THE DARK POWER THAT WILL DESTROY YOU UTTERLY.
HE HOPES YOU WILL FORCE ME TO THAT CHOICE.
AND YOU KNOW, S'YM, THAT *TEMPTS* ME...
...IT REALLY *DOES*.

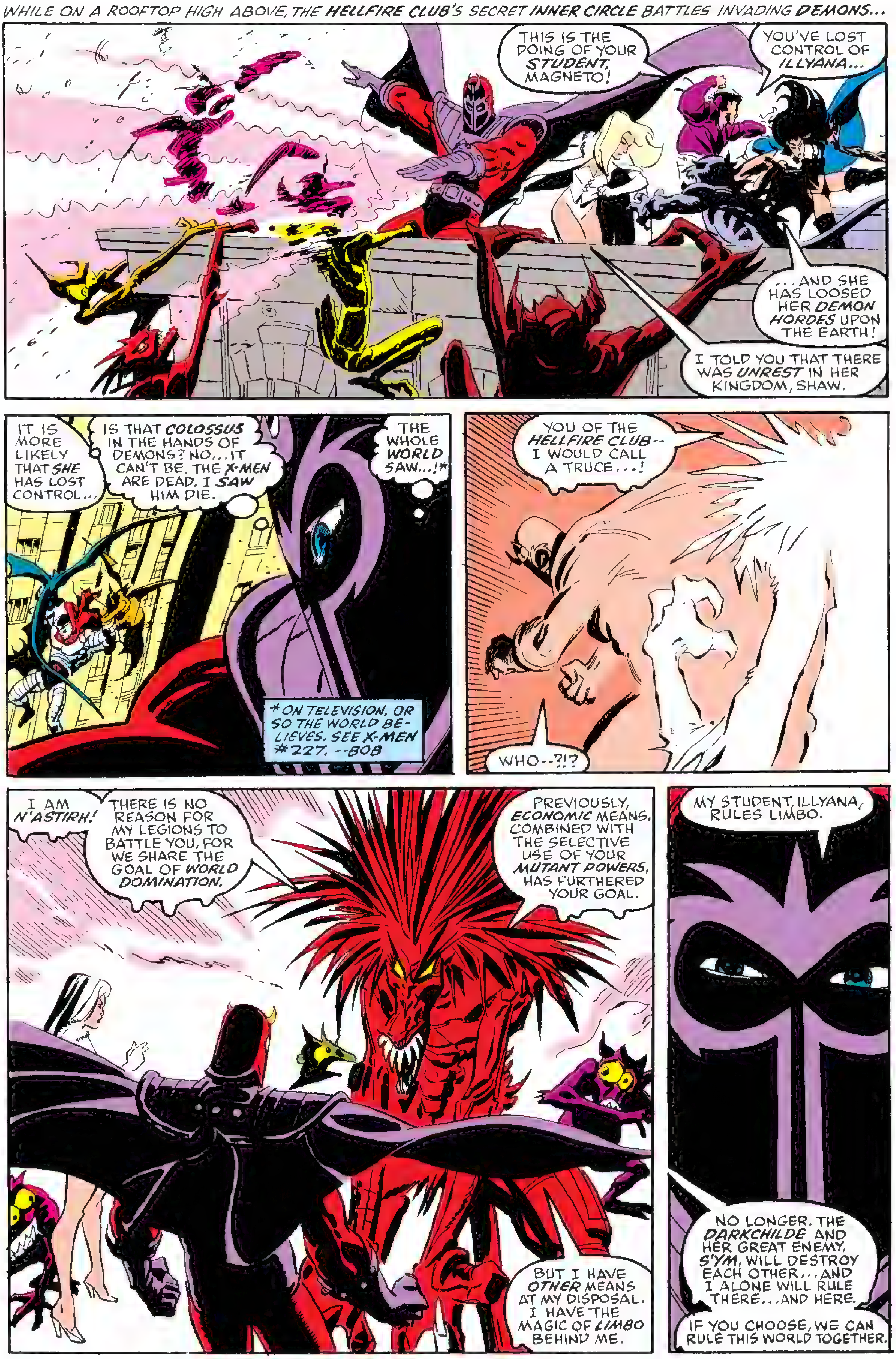

WHILE NOT FAR AWAY, JUST OFF **TIMES SQUARE**, IS A **CHURCH**, A HAVEN FOR A GROUP OF INJURED MUTANTS...
I KNOW WE'RE IN NO SHAPE TO GO WITH THE OTHERS, BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE A SHIRKER.
IT'S HARD LETTING THEM GO, RUSTY. I'M **AFRAID** FOR THEM. I... I SEE DEATH **EVERYWHERE**.
MY... HEAD.
CONCUSSION PROBABLY. COME ON, DANI, LIE DOWN AGAIN.
WON'T DO ANY GOOD, SKIDS.
VALKYRIES GAVE ME A GIFT THAT LETS ME SEE **DEATH** COMING. RIGHT NOW...
"...I SEE **DEATH** ALL AROUND..."
THE WAY THE STREETS AN' BUILDIN'S KEEP SHIFTIN' AROUND...
...AH DON'T KNOW IF WE'D **SEE** ILLYANA, IF WE FLEW RIGHT **OVER** HER.
NEVERTHELESS, SELFRIENDS, WE MUST CONTINUE THE SEARCH.
SELFRIEN **DARKCHILDE** IS ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT CITY RIGHT.
SHE TOOK BACK HER **SWORD**, AND BECAME THE DARKCHILDE SO SHE COULD GET US HOME.
SHE DIDN'T **MEAN** TO CAUSE ALL OF THIS.
I KNOW. I FEEL BADLY... IF SHE DID IT TO SAVE US, THIS MUST BE **OUR FAULT!**
HEY, WE X-TERMINATORS PLAYED **OUR** PART, TOO.* ME AND BOOM-BOOM FEEL JUST AS BAD.
NO WAY
HEY, YOU HOODLUMS! **RED LIGHT!** AND THIS IS A **NO WAY** STREET!
*SEE X-TERMINATORS #1-4. --BOB

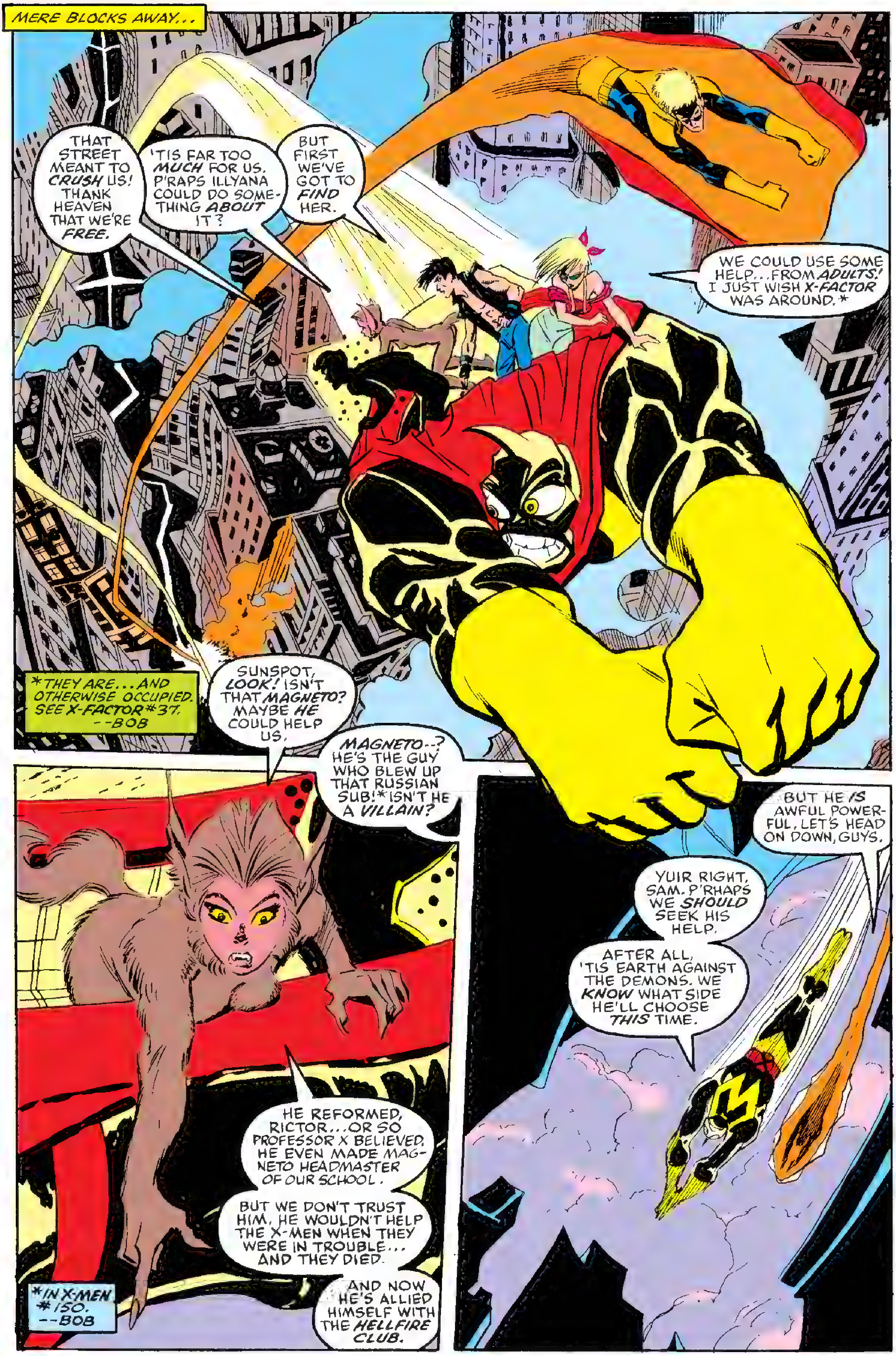

WASSA MATTER? CAN'T YOU READ THE *SIGN?*
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A RED LIGHT *MEANS?*
WARLOCK-- *STOP!*
OUT
HA HA YOU
LOSE
RIGHT YOU ARE, HOTRODDER! AN' YOU AIN'T EVEN *SLOWIN'* *DOWN!*
SELFRIENDS, STREET IS LOOPING 'ROUND US! TRYING TO *CRUSH* US!
YUP! PENALTY FOR TRAFFIC OFFENDERS!
GONNA *GRIND* YOU INTA A *TRAFFIC* *JAM!*

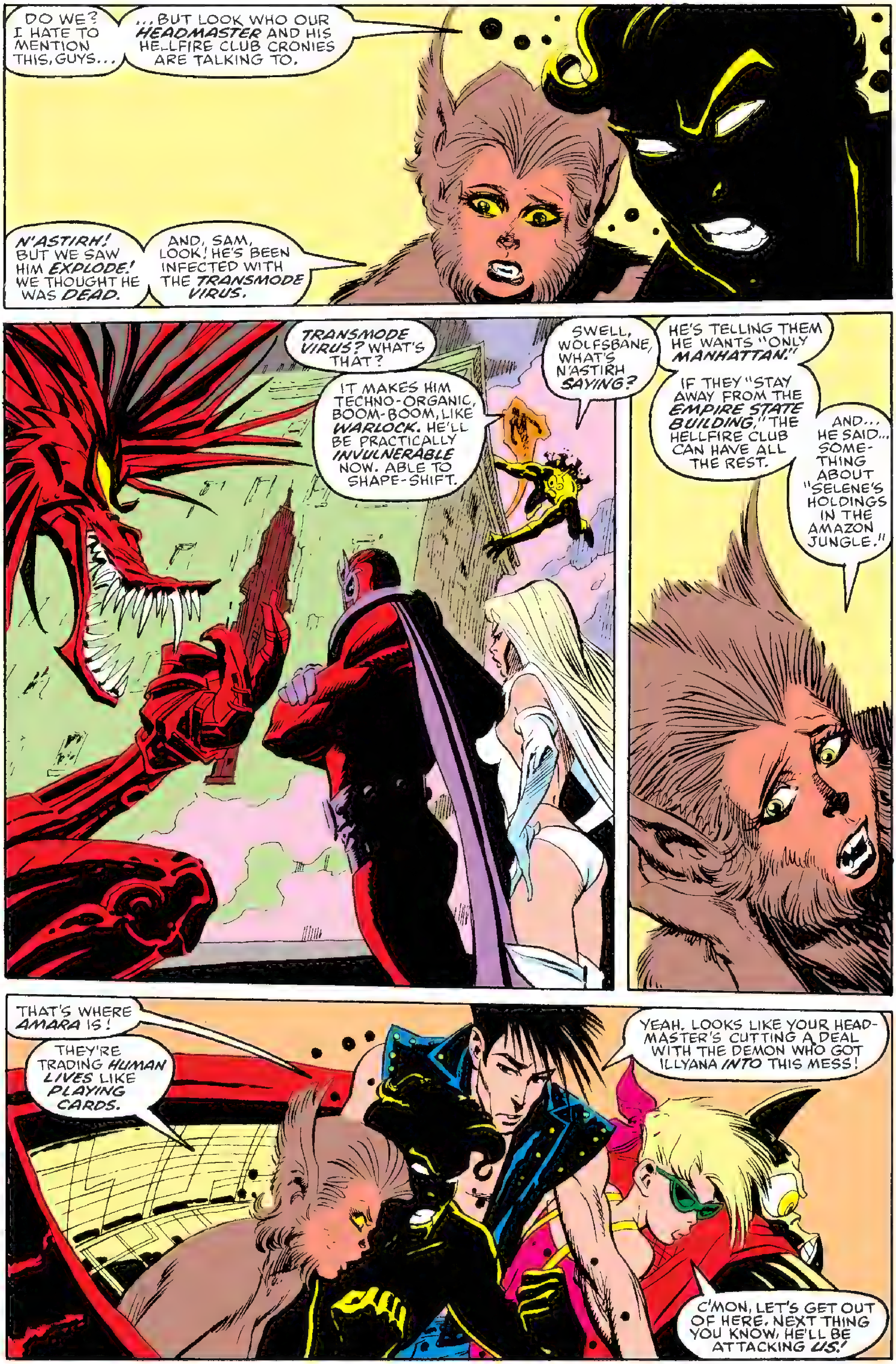

STOPLIGHT *WISE*MOUTH LACKS *STREET*SMARTS!
WAY TA GO, 'LOCK!
POW!
GET 'EM! *STOP* 'EM!
THEY RAN THE *LIGHTS!*
THAT'S NOT *ALL* WE'RE GONNA DO TO YOUR LIGHTS!
3... 2... 1...
BOOM! RUMBLE!
YO, *RICTOR!* SHAKE 'EM *UP*, DUDE!
WHAT A DISASTER! WE COULD USE *PROFESSOR X* ABOUT NOW...
PROFESSOR XAVIER IS YOUR *TEACHER?* THE OLD GUY WHO USED TO TEACH *X-FACTOR?!*
HE TAUGHT US, *ONCE*, BUT HE HAD TO LEAVE. WE HAVE A *NEW* HEADMASTER NOW...
...AND, I SUSPECT, *HE'D* SHOW MORE CONCERN FOR THE DANGER TO *US*, THAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS *CITY!*

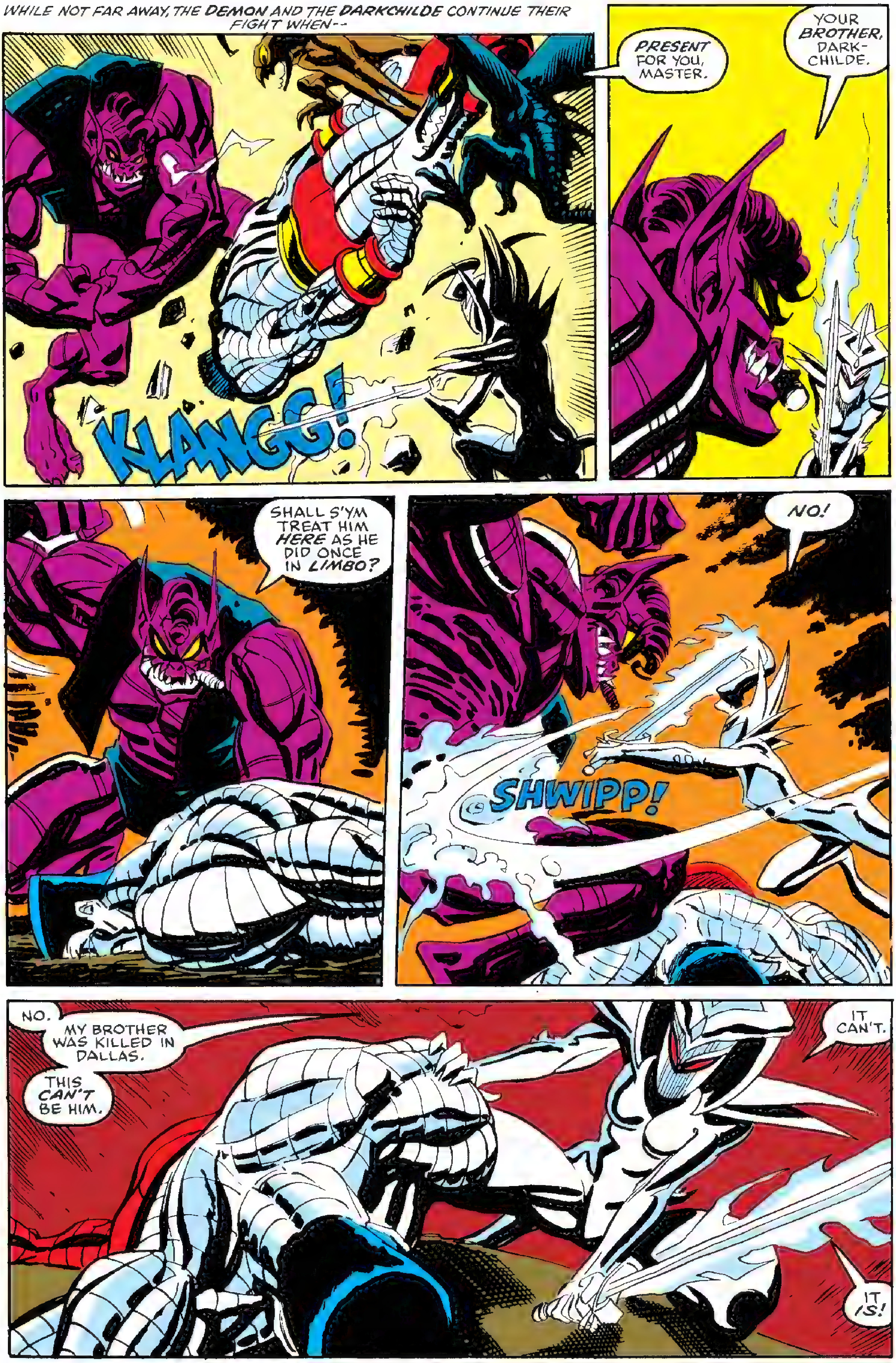

MEANWHILE, THROUGH TWISTED MANHATTAN STEETS STRIDES AN UPRIGHT MAN.
HE KNOWS THESE DEMONS. HE'S SEEN THEM BEFORE. HIS LITTLE SISTER WAS THEIR MISTRESS, ONCE, IN LIMBO.
BUT SHE ESCAPED. LEFT LIMBO AND ITS NIGHTMARE WORLD BEHIND HER.
SO WHERE IS SHE NOW, HE WONDERS! AND WHAT IS LIMBO DOING HERE...?
AAK!
MY SISTER... WHERE IS SHE?
S... SISTER?
SHE FELL INTO YOUR REALM WHEN SHE WAS SIX.
BY THE TIME SHE ESCAPED, SHE RULED LIMBO. SHE RULED YOU!
SHE ARRIVED BACK HERE ON EARTH, EIGHT LONG YEARS LATER...

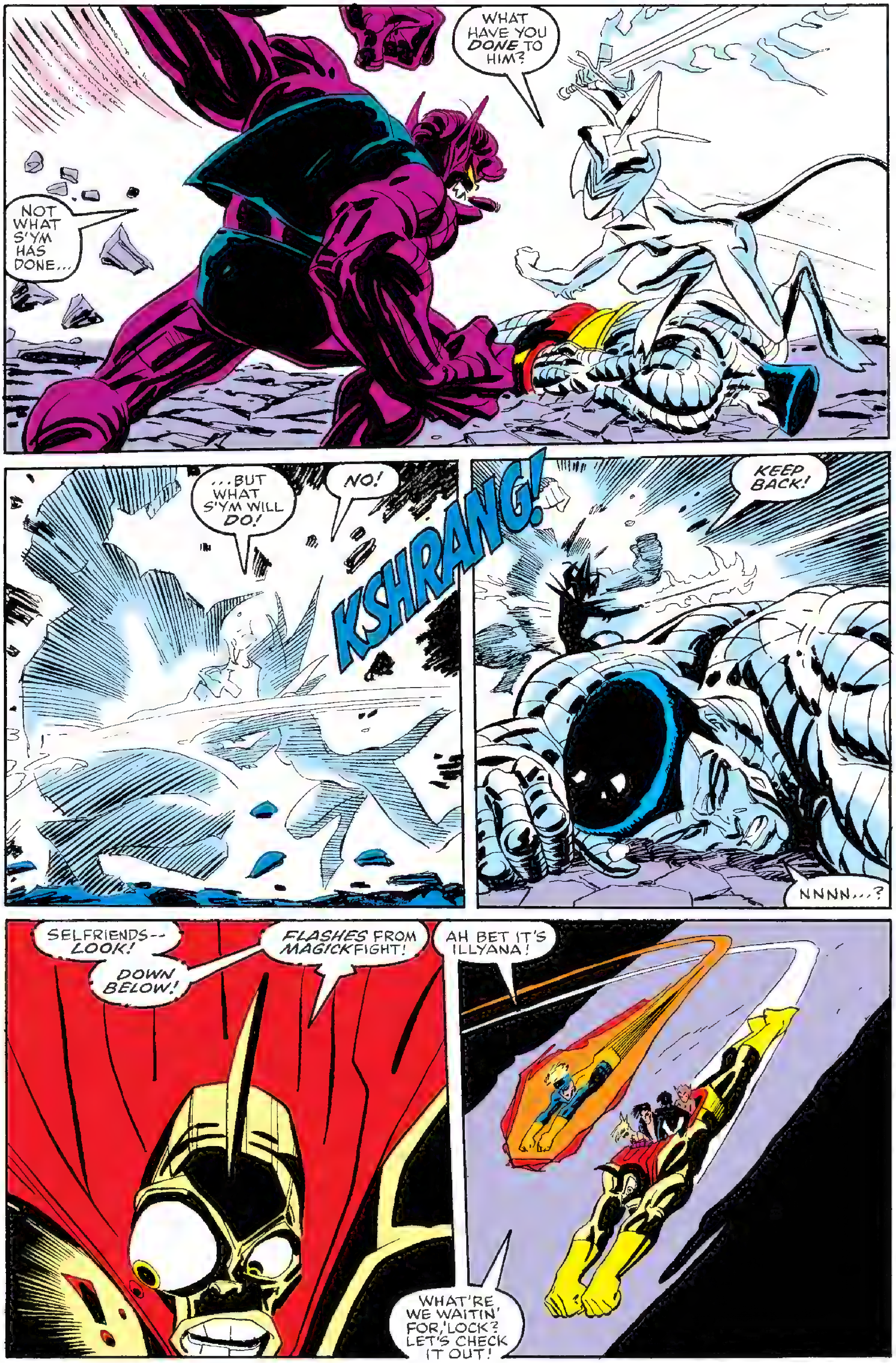

...ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT, FOR US, MERE *HOURS* HAD PASSED.
THAT 'CAUSE TIME *DIFFERENT* IN LIMBO.
TIME *BETTER* THERE.
ONE TIME IS *ALL* TIME IN LIMBO, THROUGH *TELEPORT DISCS*.
IS *PART* OF LIMBO'S SPECIAL MAGIC.
ONLY PART MIGHTY *S'YM* NOT ABLE TO BRING HERE TO *EARTH*.
S'YM--?
MY *SISTER* RULES LIMBO, NOT S'YM!
SURPRISE FOR YOU, BIG GUY, HUH?
YOUR SISTER NOT *LOOK* LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL IN PICTURE NOW. N'ASTIRH *CHANGE* HER.
BUT S'YM *FIGHT* N'ASTIRH. AND NOW *S'YM* RULE!
WE KNOW YOU, NOW!
YOU *COLOSSUS*, DARKCHILDE'S *BROTHER*.
YOU *ORGANIC STEEL* MAN!
YOU *FIGHT* S'YM ONCE.
WE *BRING* YOU TO MIGHTY *S'YM*.
FOR OUR NEW *RULER* ...SHINY *CORONATION GIFT*.

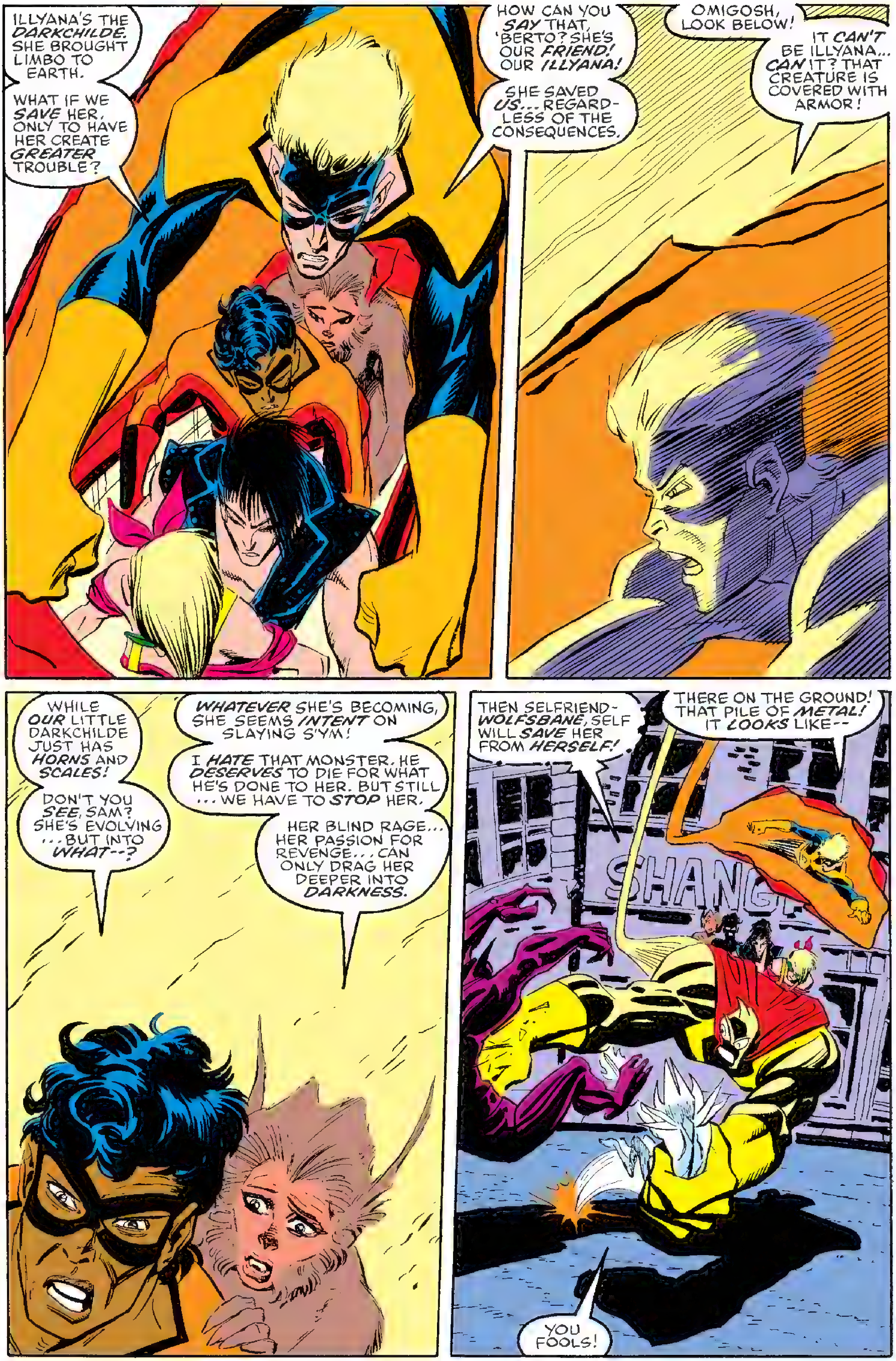

WHILE ON A ROOFTOP HIGH ABOVE, THE **HELLFIRE CLUB**'S SECRET **INNER CIRCLE** BATTLES INVADING **DEMONS**...
THIS IS THE DOING OF YOUR *STUDENT*, MAGNETO!
YOU'VE LOST CONTROL OF *ILLYANA*...
...AND SHE HAS LOOSED HER *DEMON HORDES* UPON THE EARTH!
I TOLD YOU THAT THERE WAS *UNREST* IN HER KINGDOM, SHAW.
IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT *SHE* HAS LOST CONTROL...
IS THAT *COLOSSUS* IN THE HANDS OF DEMONS? NO... IT CAN'T BE. THE *X-MEN* ARE DEAD. I *SAW* HIM DIE.
THE WHOLE *WORLD* SAW...!*
*ON TELEVISION, OR SO THE WORLD BELIEVES. SEE X-MEN #227. --BOB
YOU OF THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*-- I WOULD CALL A TRUCE...!
WHO--?!?
I AM *N'ASTIRH!*
THERE IS NO REASON FOR MY LEGIONS TO BATTLE YOU, FOR WE SHARE THE GOAL OF *WORLD DOMINATION.*
PREVIOUSLY, *ECONOMIC* MEANS, COMBINED WITH THE SELECTIVE USE OF YOUR *MUTANT POWERS*, HAS FURTHERED YOUR GOAL.
BUT I HAVE *OTHER* MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL. I HAVE THE MAGIC OF *LIMBO* BEHIND ME.
MY STUDENT, ILLYANA, RULES LIMBO.
NO LONGER. THE *DARKCHILDE* AND HER GREAT ENEMY, *S'YM*, WILL DESTROY EACH OTHER... AND I ALONE WILL RULE THERE... AND HERE.
IF YOU CHOOSE, WE CAN RULE THIS WORLD TOGETHER.

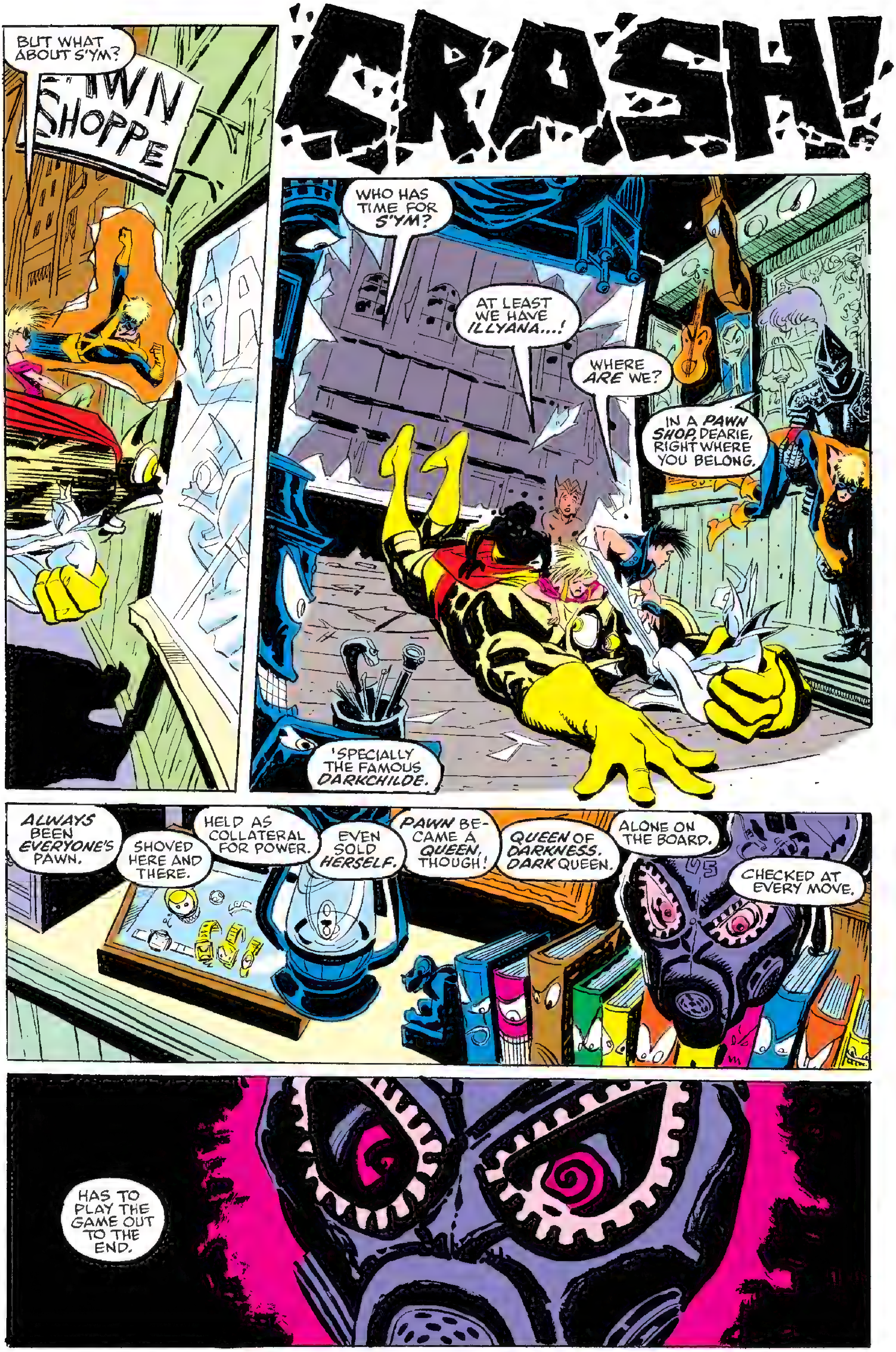

MERE BLOCKS AWAY...
THAT STREET MEANT TO CRUSH US! THANK HEAVEN THAT WE'RE FREE.
'TIS FAR TOO MUCH FOR US. P'RAPS ILLYANA COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT TO FIND HER.
WE COULD USE SOME HELP...FROM ADULTS! I JUST WISH X-FACTOR WAS AROUND.*
*THEY ARE...AND OTHERWISE OCCUPIED. SEE X-FACTOR #37. --BOB
SUNSPOT, LOOK! ISN'T THAT MAGNETO? MAYBE HE COULD HELP US.
MAGNETO--? HE'S THE GUY WHO BLEW UP THAT RUSSIAN SUB!* ISN'T HE A VILLAIN?
HE REFORMED, RICTOR...OR SO PROFESSOR X BELIEVED. HE EVEN MADE MAGNETO HEADMASTER OF OUR SCHOOL.
BUT WE DON'T TRUST HIM. HE WOULDN'T HELP THE X-MEN WHEN THEY WERE IN TROUBLE... AND THEY DIED.
AND NOW HE'S ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
*IN X-MEN #150. --BOB
BUT HE IS AWFUL POWERFUL. LET'S HEAD ON DOWN, GUYS.
YUIR RIGHT, SAM. P'RAPS WE SHOULD SEEK HIS HELP.
AFTER ALL, 'TIS EARTH AGAINST THE DEMONS. WE KNOW WHAT SIDE HE'LL CHOOSE THIS TIME.

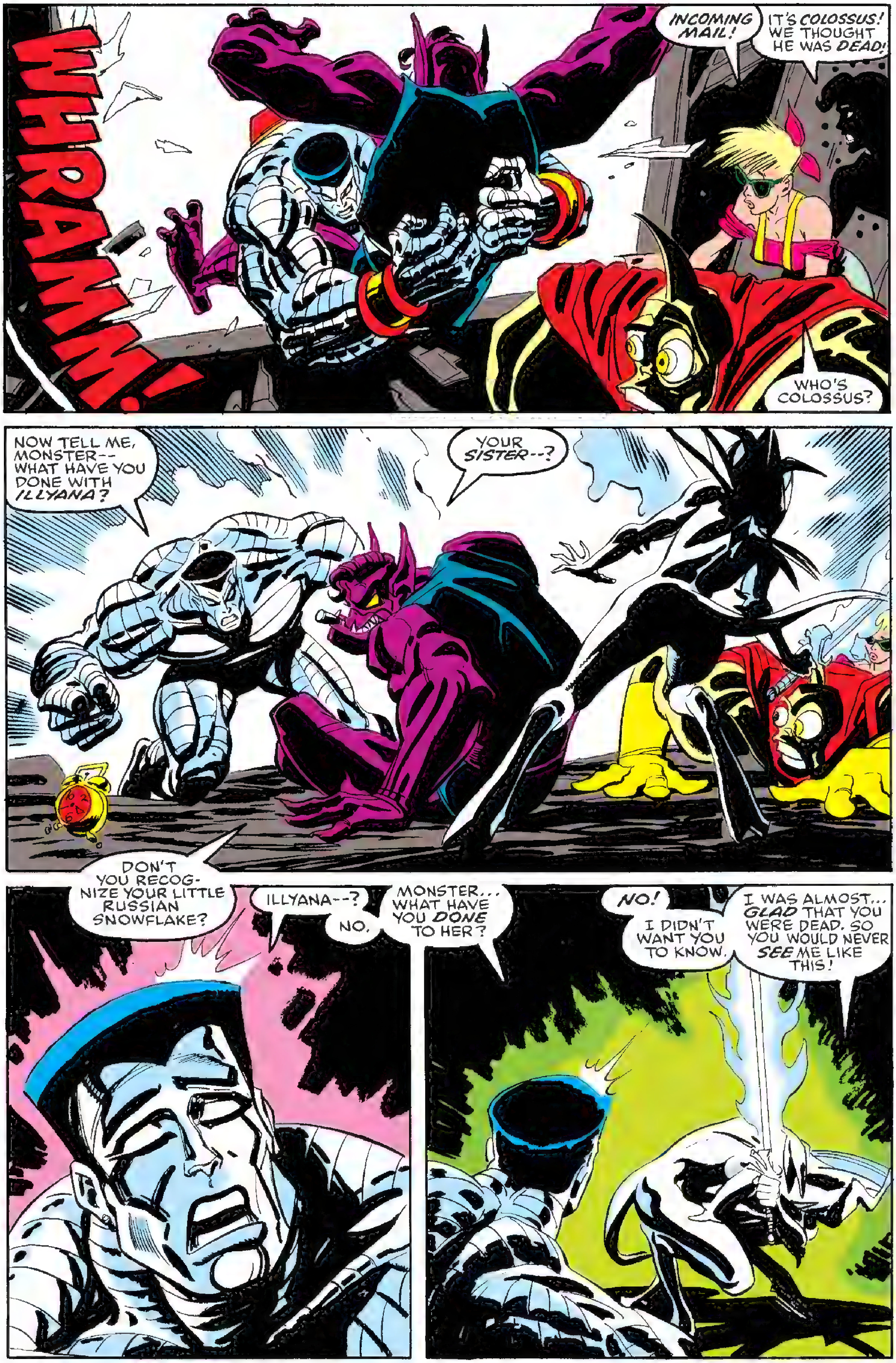

DO WE? I HATE TO MENTION THIS, GUYS...
...BUT LOOK WHO OUR *HEADMASTER* AND HIS HELLFIRE CLUB CRONIES ARE TALKING TO.
N'ASTIRH! BUT WE SAW HIM *EXPLODE!* WE THOUGHT HE WAS *DEAD.*
AND, SAM, LOOK! HE'S BEEN INFECTED WITH THE *TRANSMODE VIRUS.*
TRANSMODE VIRUS? WHAT'S THAT?
IT MAKES HIM TECHNO-ORGANIC, BOOM-BOOM, LIKE *WARLOCK.* HE'LL BE PRACTICALLY *INVULNERABLE* NOW. ABLE TO SHAPE-SHIFT.
SWELL, WOLFSBANE. WHAT'S N'ASTIRH *SAYING?*
HE'S TELLING THEM HE WANTS "ONLY *MANHATTAN.*"
IF THEY "STAY AWAY FROM THE *EMPIRE STATE BUILDING,*" THE HELLFIRE CLUB CAN HAVE ALL THE REST.
AND... HE SAID... SOMETHING ABOUT "SELENE'S HOLDINGS IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE."
THAT'S WHERE *AMARA* IS!
THEY'RE TRADING *HUMAN LIVES* LIKE *PLAYING CARDS.*
YEAH. LOOKS LIKE YOUR HEADMASTER'S CUTTING A DEAL WITH THE DEMON WHO GOT ILLYANA *INTO* THIS MESS!
C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, HE'LL BE ATTACKING *US!*

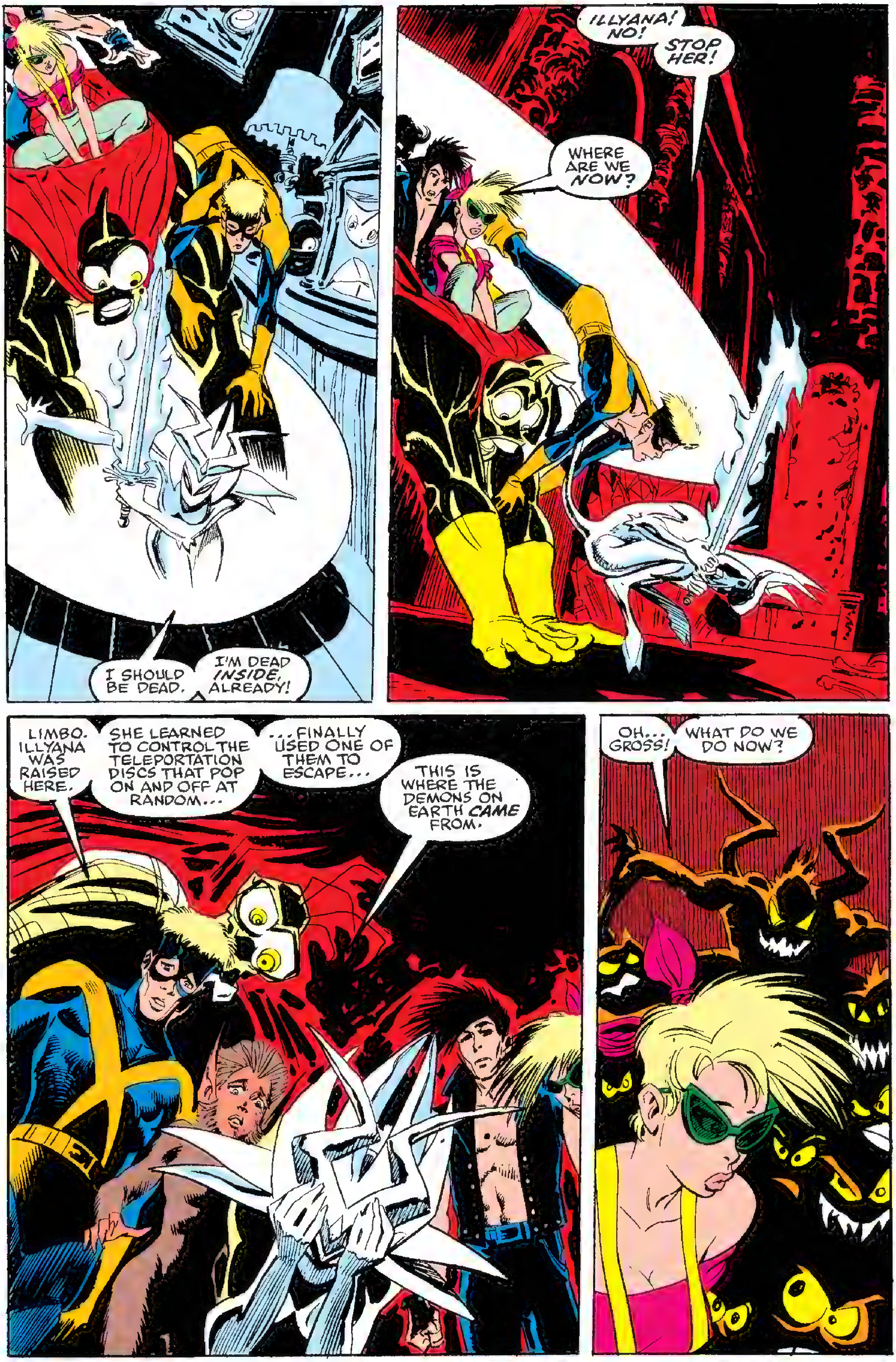

WHILE NOT FAR AWAY, THE **DEMON** AND THE **DARKCHILDE** CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT WHEN--
KLANGG!
PRESENT FOR YOU, MASTER.
YOUR *BROTHER,* DARKCHILDE.
SHALL S'YM TREAT HIM *HERE* AS HE DID ONCE IN *LIMBO?*
NO!
SHWIPP!
NO.
MY BROTHER WAS KILLED IN DALLAS.
THIS *CAN'T* BE HIM.
IT CAN'T.
IT *IS!*

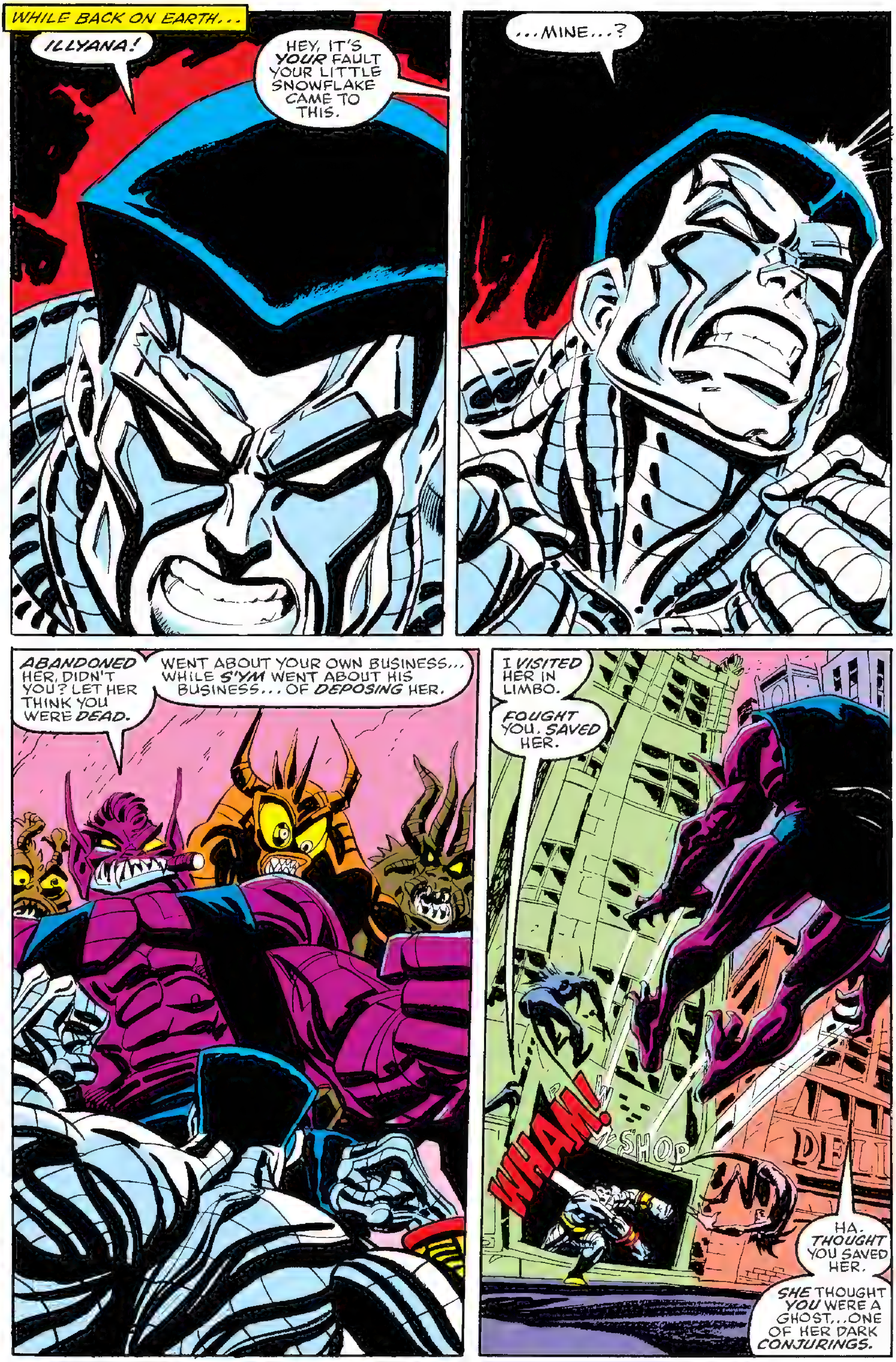

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?
NOT WHAT S'YM HAS DONE...
...BUT WHAT S'YM WILL DO!
NO!
KSHRANG!
KEEP BACK!
NNNN...?
SELFRIENDS-- LOOK!
DOWN BELOW!
FLASHES FROM MAGICK FIGHT!
AH BET IT'S ILLYANA!
WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR, 'LOCK? LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

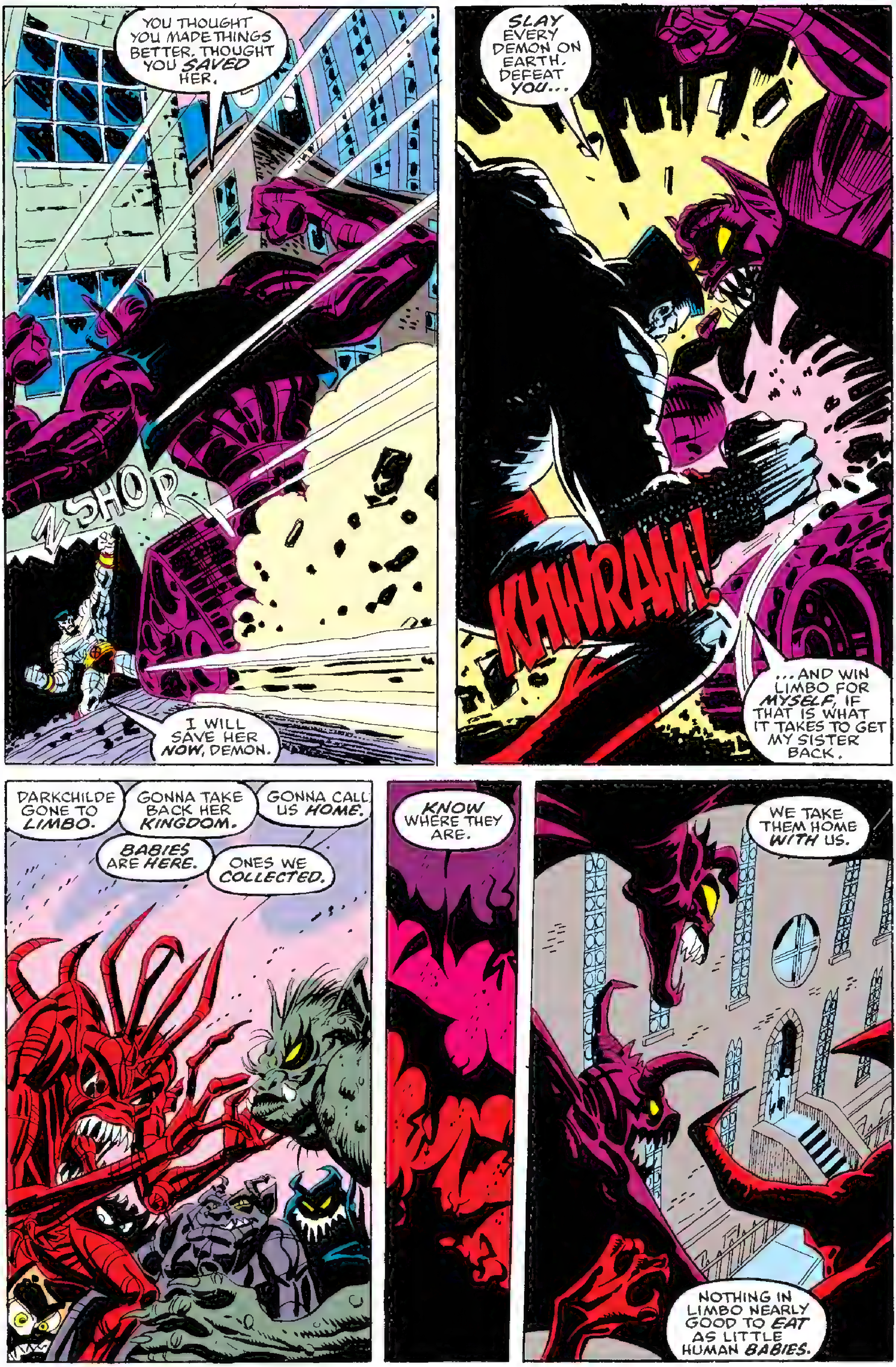

ILLYANA'S THE DARKCHILDE. SHE BROUGHT LIMBO TO EARTH.
WHAT IF WE SAVE HER, ONLY TO HAVE HER CREATE GREATER TROUBLE?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, 'BERTO? SHE'S OUR FRIEND! OUR ILLYANA!
SHE SAVED US... REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES.
OMIGOSH, LOOK BELOW!
IT CAN'T BE ILLYANA... CAN IT? THAT CREATURE IS COVERED WITH ARMOR!
WHILE OUR LITTLE DARKCHILDE JUST HAS HORNS AND SCALES!
DON'T YOU SEE, SAM? SHE'S EVOLVING ...BUT INTO WHAT--?
WHATEVER SHE'S BECOMING, SHE SEEMS INTENT ON SLAYING S'YM!
I HATE THAT MONSTER. HE DESERVES TO DIE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO HER. BUT STILL ... WE HAVE TO STOP HER.
HER BLIND RAGE... HER PASSION FOR REVENGE... CAN ONLY DRAG HER DEEPER INTO DARKNESS.
THEN SELFRIEND-WOLFSBANE, SELF WILL SAVE HER FROM HERSELF!
THERE ON THE GROUND! THAT PILE OF METAL! IT LOOKS LIKE--
SHANG
YOU FOOLS!

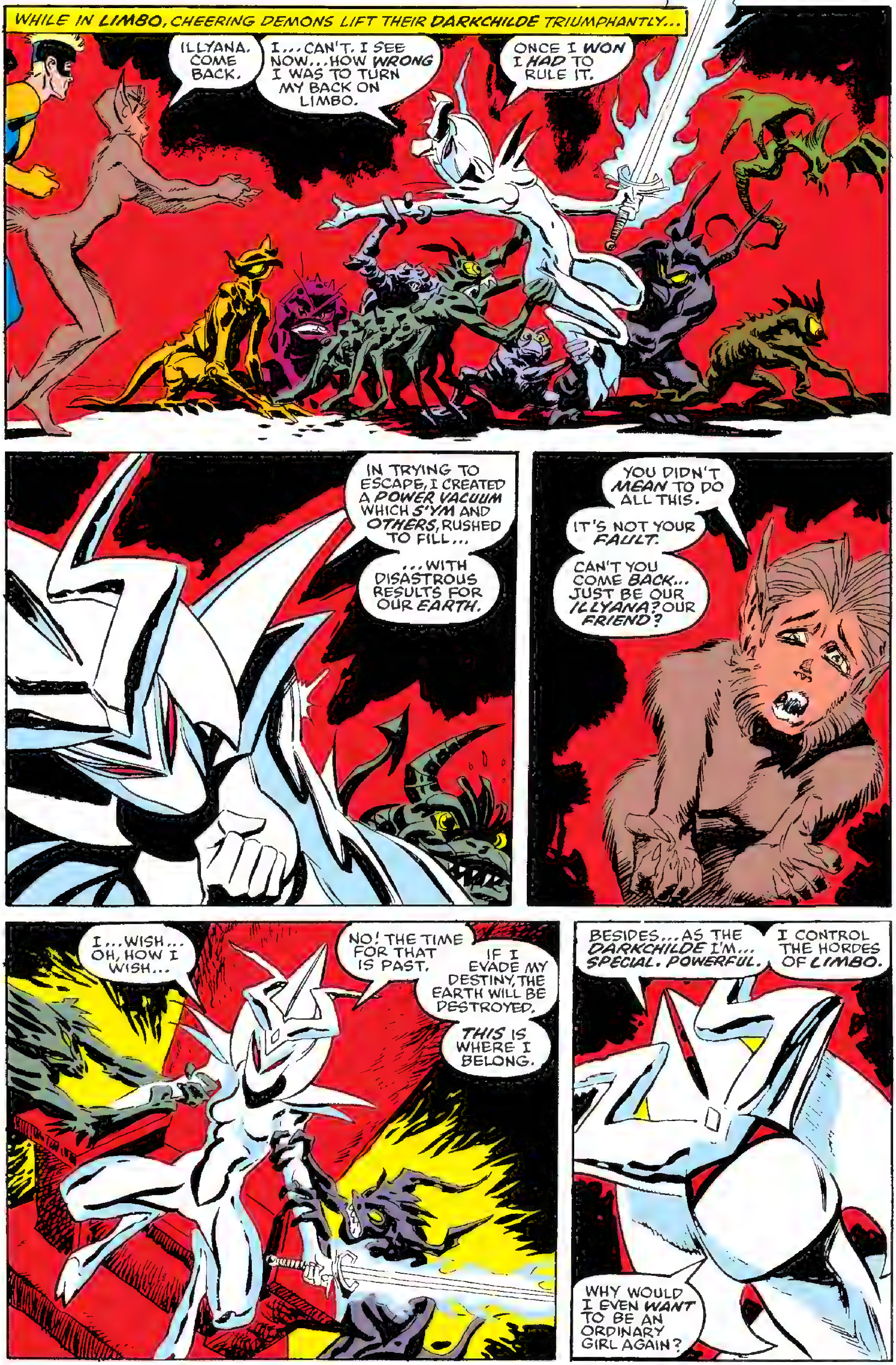

BUT WHAT ABOUT S'YM?
WN SHOPPE
CRASH!
WHO HAS TIME FOR S'YM?
AT LEAST WE HAVE ILLYANA...!
WHERE ARE WE?
IN A PAWN SHOP, DEARIE, RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.
'SPECIALLY THE FAMOUS DARKCHILDE.
ALWAYS BEEN EVERYONE'S PAWN.
SHOVED HERE AND THERE.
HELD AS COLLATERAL FOR POWER.
EVEN SOLD HERSELF.
PAWN BECAME A QUEEN, THOUGH!
QUEEN OF DARKNESS. DARK QUEEN.
ALONE ON THE BOARD.
CHECKED AT EVERY MOVE.
HAS TO PLAY THE GAME OUT TO THE END.

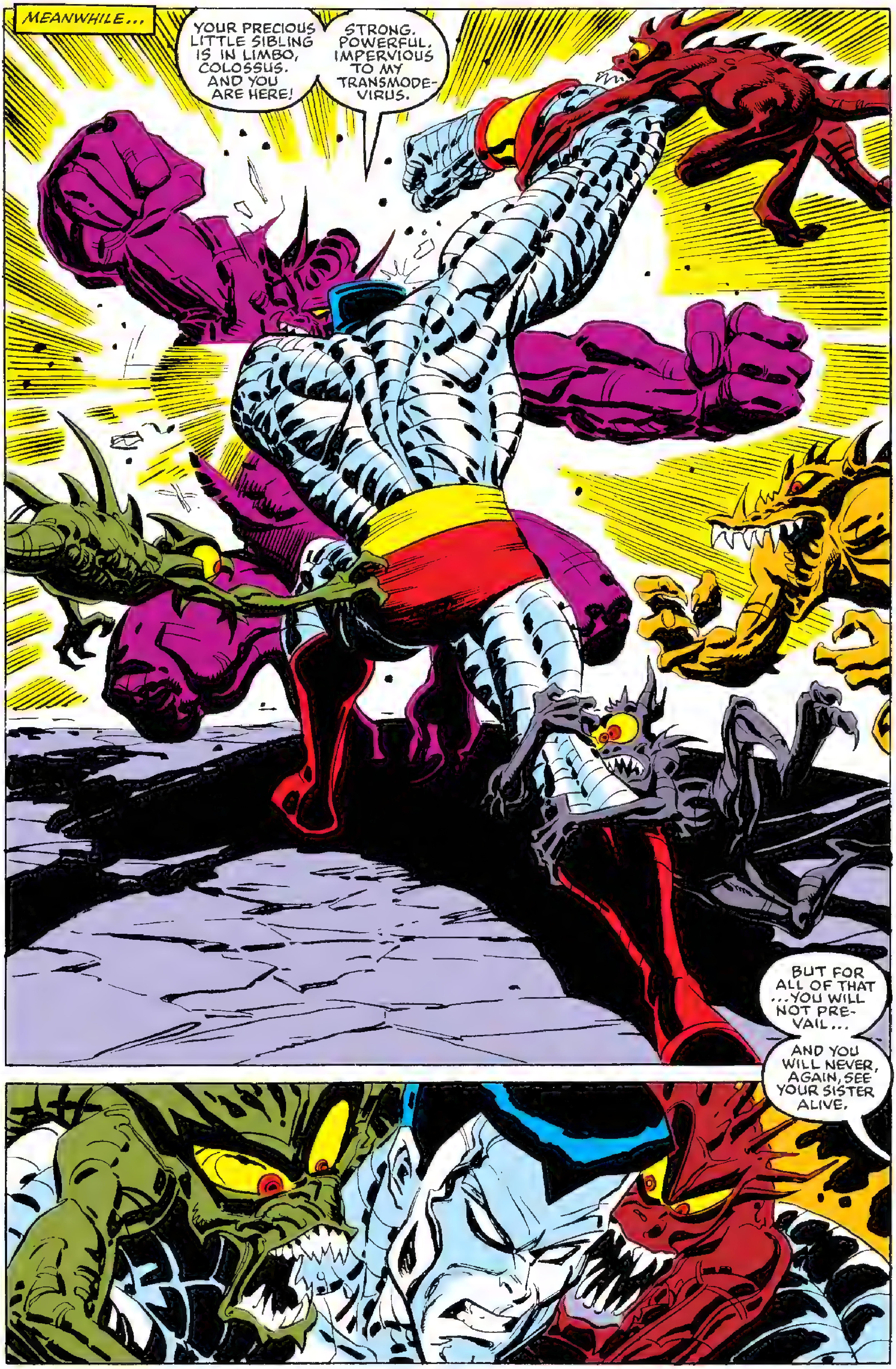

WHRAMM!
INCOMING MAIL!
IT'S COLOSSUS! WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
WHO'S COLOSSUS?
NOW TELL ME, MONSTER-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH ILLYANA?
YOUR SISTER--?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR LITTLE RUSSIAN SNOWFLAKE?
ILLYANA--?
NO.
MONSTER... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?
NO!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW.
I WAS ALMOST... GLAD THAT YOU WERE DEAD. SO YOU WOULD NEVER SEE ME LIKE THIS!

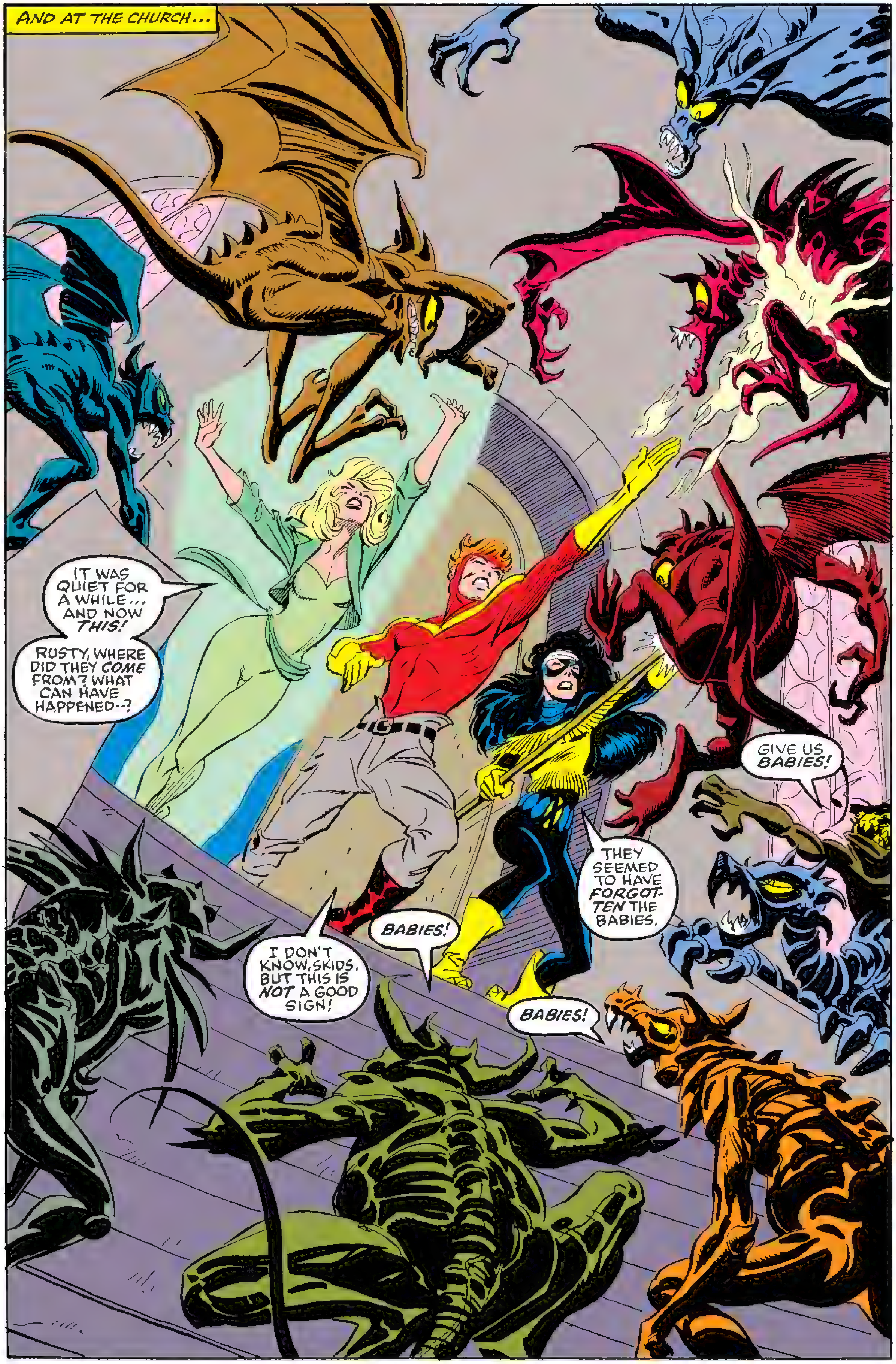

I SHOULD BE DEAD.
I'M DEAD *INSIDE*, ALREADY!
ILLYANA! NO!
STOP HER!
WHERE ARE WE *NOW?*
LIMBO. ILLYANA WAS RAISED HERE.
SHE LEARNED TO CONTROL THE TELEPORTATION DISCS THAT POP ON AND OFF AT RANDOM...
...FINALLY USED ONE OF THEM TO ESCAPE...
THIS IS WHERE THE DEMONS ON EARTH *CAME* FROM.
OH... GROSS!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

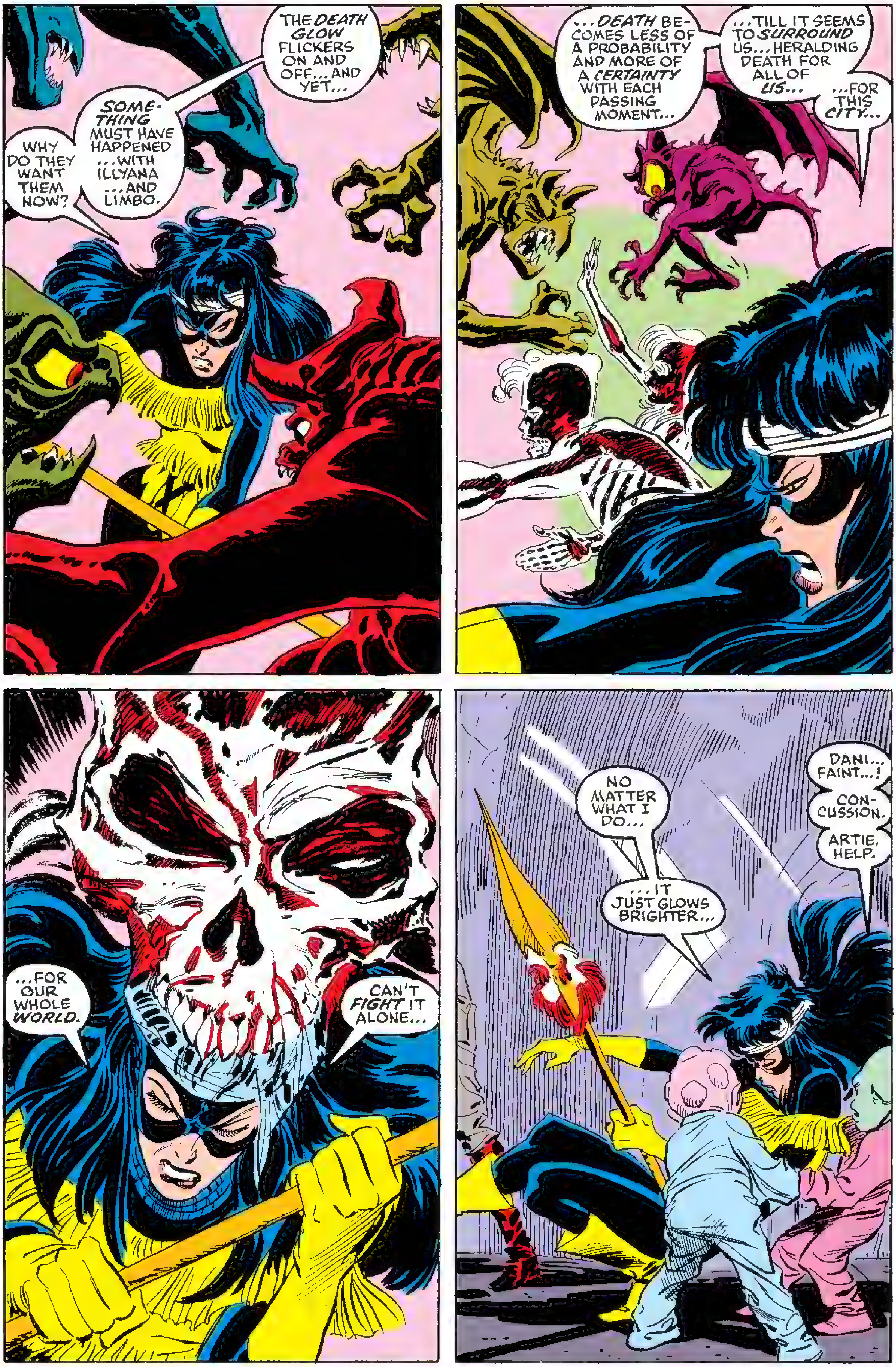

WHILE BACK ON EARTH...
ILLYANA!
HEY, IT'S YOUR FAULT YOUR LITTLE SNOWFLAKE CAME TO THIS.
...MINE...?
ABANDONED HER, DIDN'T YOU? LET HER THINK YOU WERE DEAD.
WENT ABOUT YOUR OWN BUSINESS... WHILE S'YM WENT ABOUT HIS BUSINESS... OF DEPOSING HER.
I VISITED HER IN LIMBO.
FOUGHT YOU. SAVED HER.
WHAM!
SHOP
HA. THOUGHT YOU SAVED HER.
SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GHOST...ONE OF HER DARK CONJURINGS.

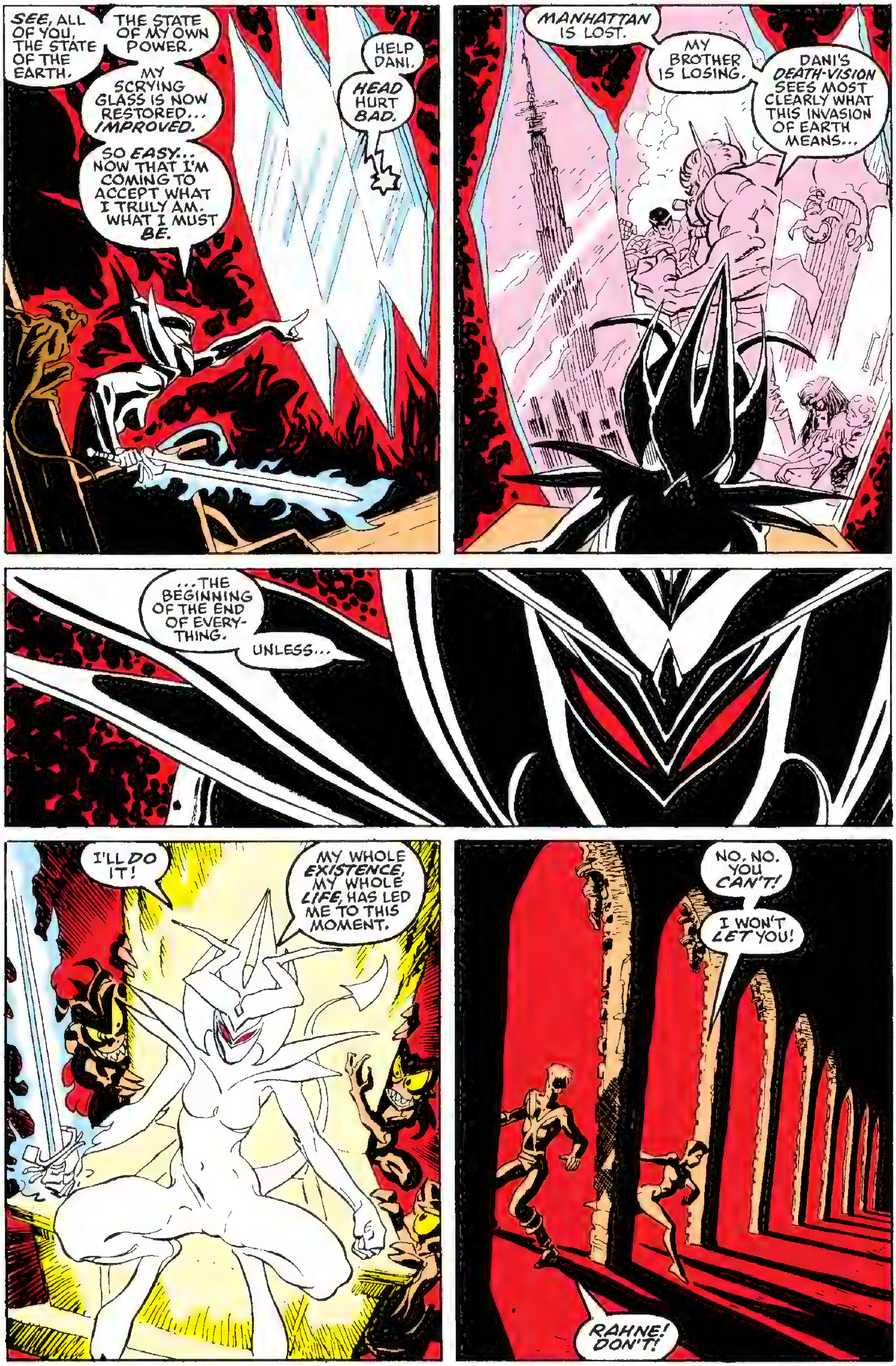

YOU THOUGHT YOU MADE THINGS BETTER. THOUGHT YOU *SAVED* HER.
SHOP
I WILL SAVE HER *NOW*, DEMON.
SLAY EVERY DEMON ON EARTH. DEFEAT *YOU*...
KHWRAM!
...AND WIN LIMBO FOR *MYSELF*, IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET MY SISTER BACK.
DARKCHILDE GONE TO *LIMBO*.
GONNA TAKE BACK HER *KINGDOM*.
GONNA CALL US *HOME*.
BABIES ARE *HERE*.
ONES WE *COLLECTED*.
KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.
WE TAKE THEM HOME *WITH* US.
NOTHING IN LIMBO NEARLY GOOD TO *EAT* AS LITTLE HUMAN *BABIES*.

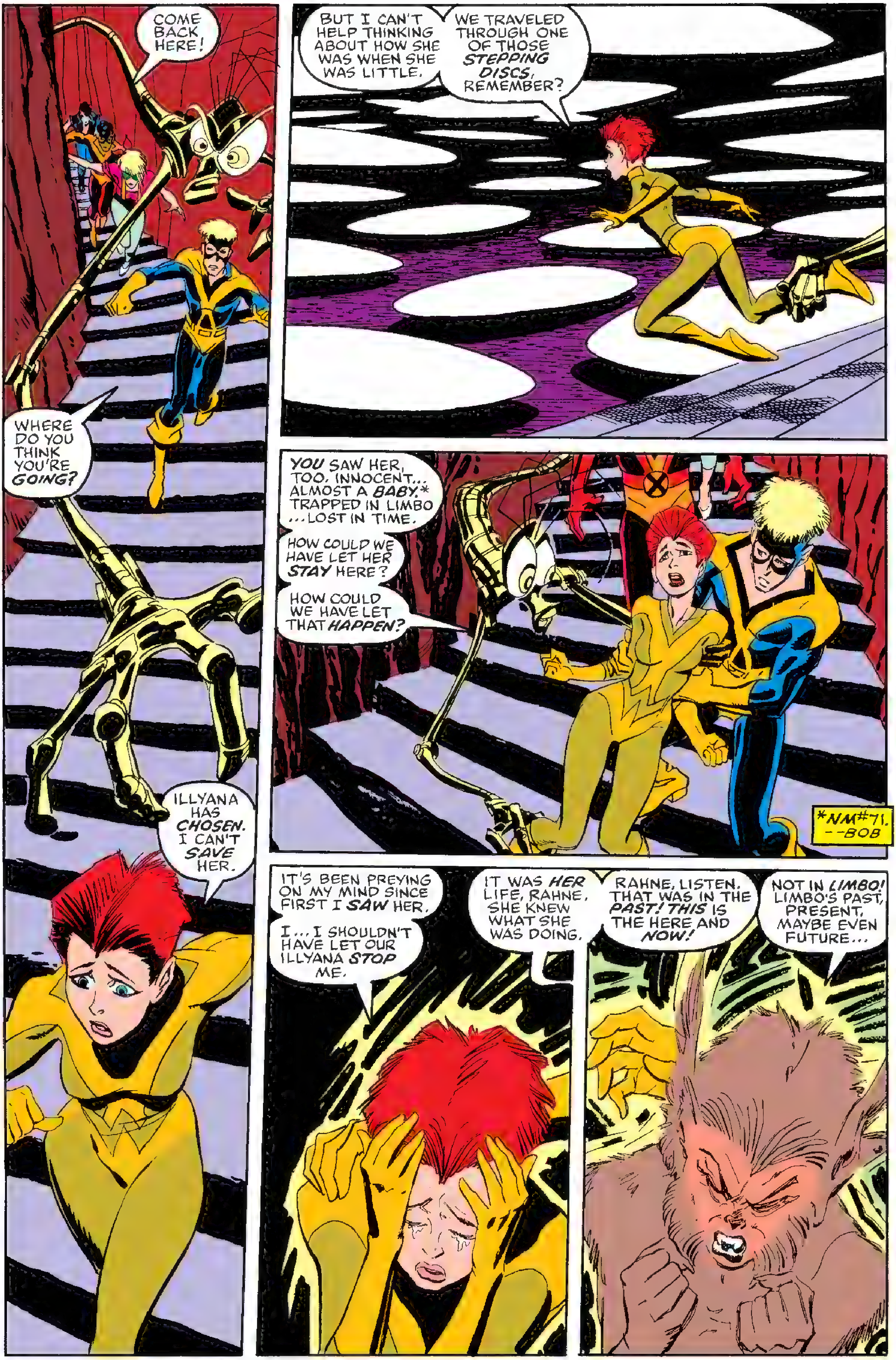

WHILE IN *LIMBO*, CHEERING DEMONS LIFT THEIR *DARKCHILDE* TRIUMPHANTLY...
ILLYANA. COME BACK.
I... CAN'T. I SEE NOW... HOW *WRONG* I WAS TO TURN MY BACK ON LIMBO.
ONCE I *WON* I *HAD* TO RULE IT.
IN TRYING TO ESCAPE, I CREATED A *POWER VACUUM* WHICH *S'YM* AND *OTHERS*, RUSHED TO FILL...
...WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS FOR OUR *EARTH*.
YOU DIDN'T *MEAN* TO DO ALL THIS.
IT'S NOT YOUR *FAULT*.
CAN'T YOU COME *BACK*... JUST BE OUR *ILLYANA*? OUR *FRIEND*?
I... WISH... OH, HOW I WISH...
NO! THE TIME FOR THAT IS PAST.
IF I EVADE MY DESTINY, THE EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED.
THIS IS WHERE I BELONG.
BESIDES... AS THE *DARKCHILDE* I'M... *SPECIAL. POWERFUL.*
I CONTROL THE HORDES OF *LIMBO*.
WHY WOULD I EVEN *WANT* TO BE AN ORDINARY GIRL AGAIN?

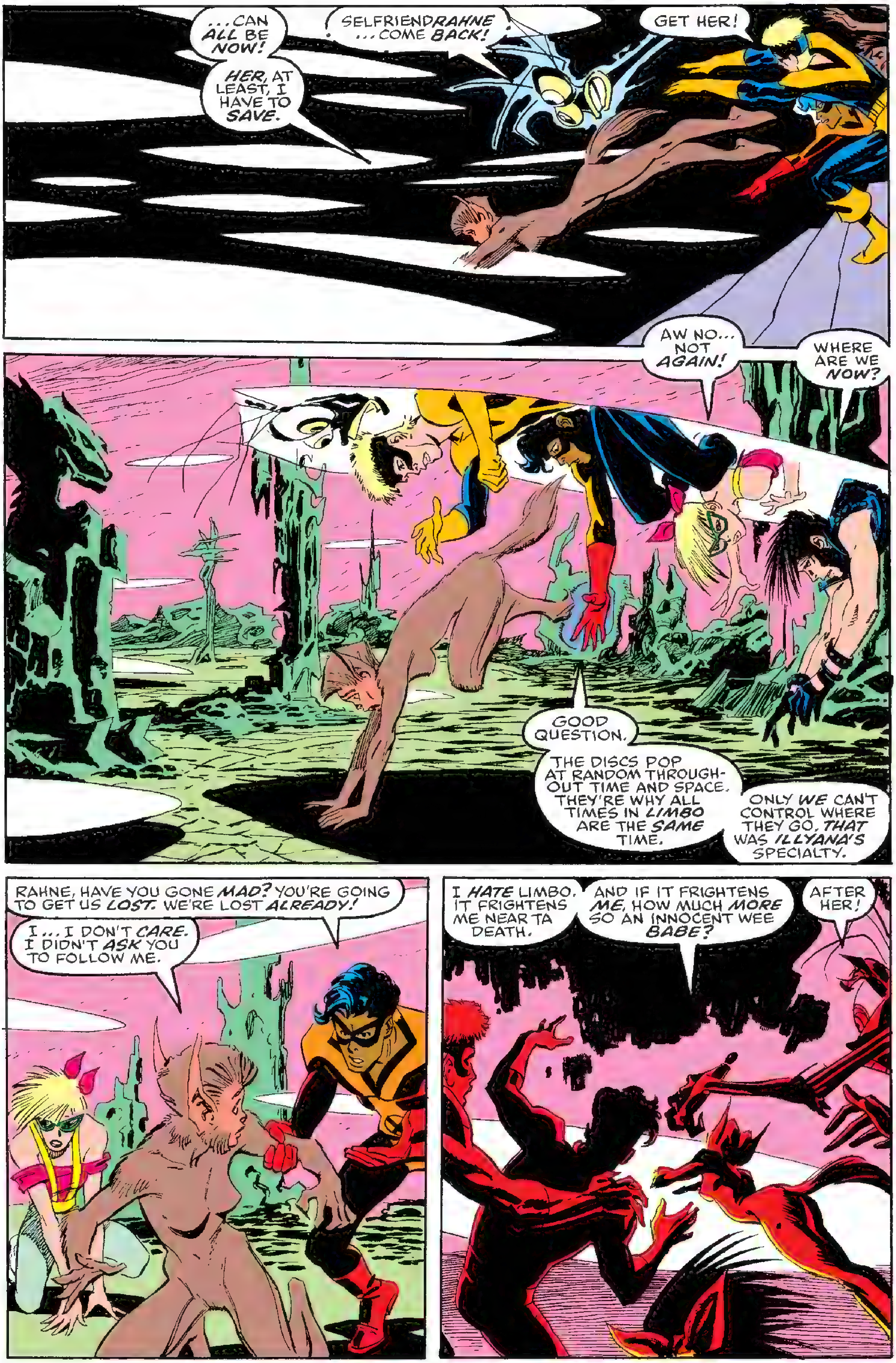

MEANWHILE...
YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE SIBLING IS IN LIMBO, COLOSSUS. AND YOU ARE HERE!
STRONG. POWERFUL. IMPERVIOUS TO MY TRANSMODE-VIRUS.
BUT FOR ALL OF THAT ...YOU WILL NOT PREVAIL...
AND YOU WILL NEVER, AGAIN, SEE YOUR SISTER ALIVE.

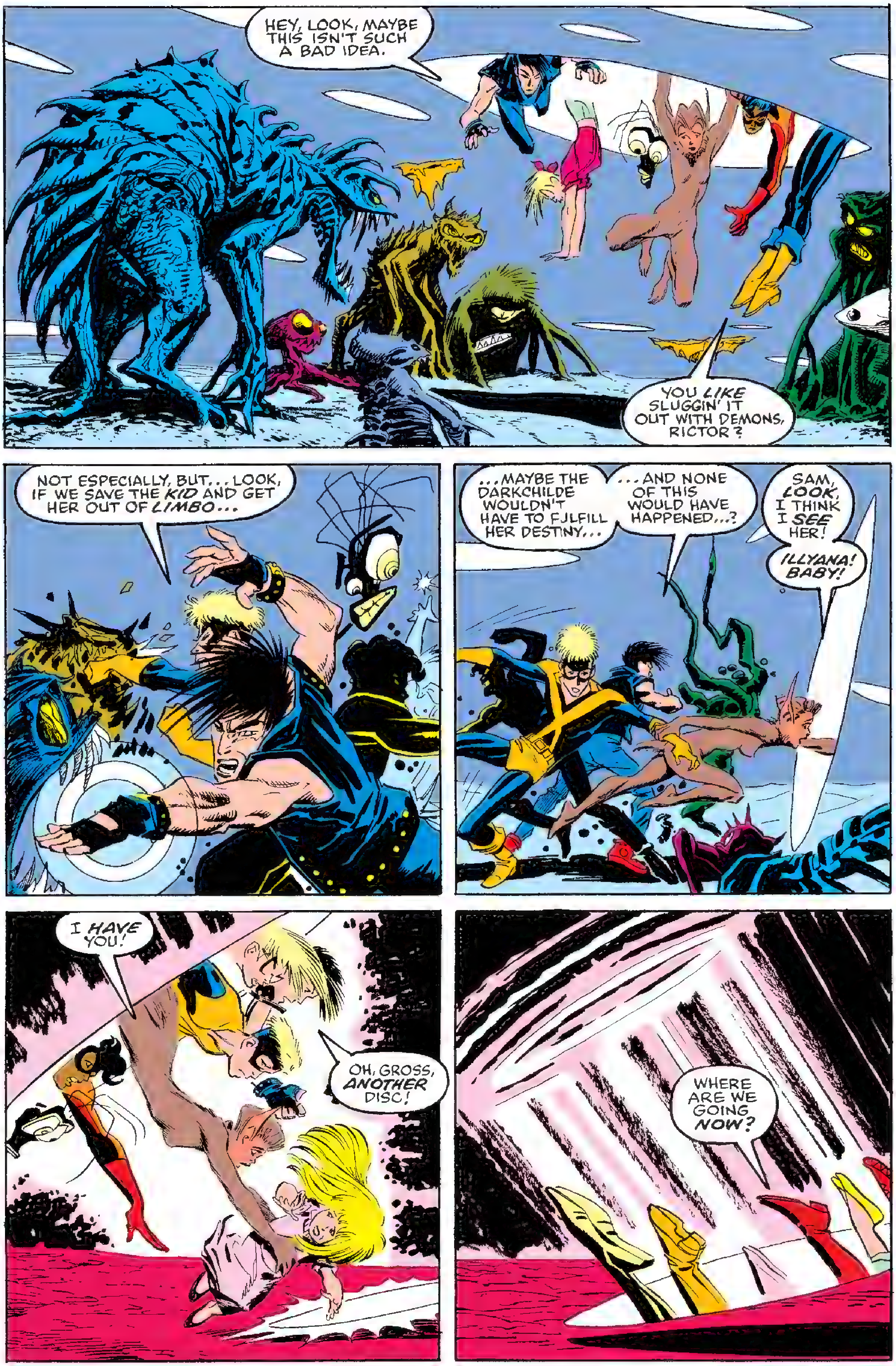

AND AT THE CHURCH...
IT WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE... AND NOW THIS!
RUSTY, WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED--?
GIVE US BABIES!
THEY SEEMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE BABIES.
BABIES!
I DON'T KNOW, SKIDS. BUT THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN!
BABIES!

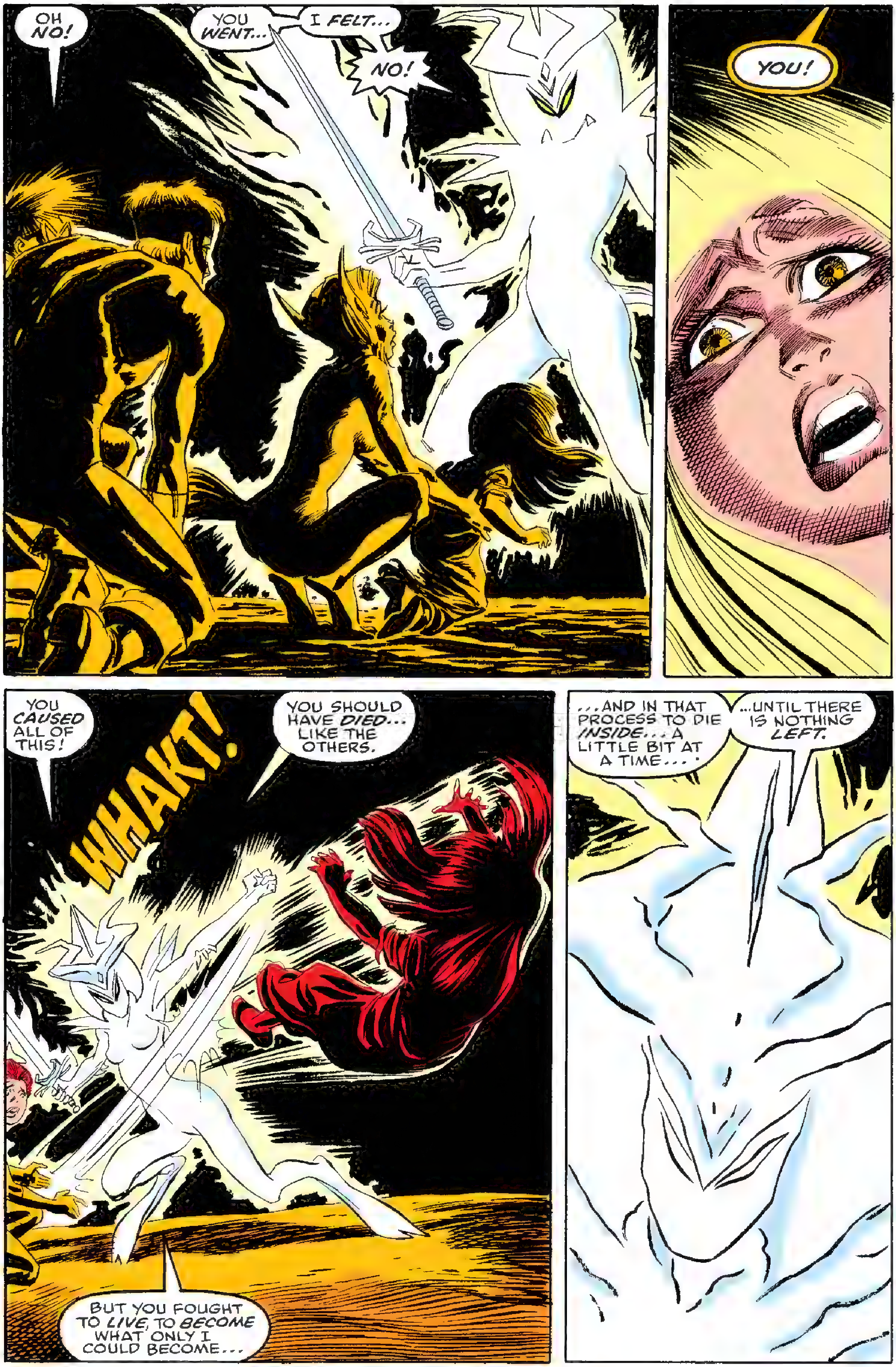

WHY DO THEY WANT THEM NOW?
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED ...WITH ILLYANA ...AND LIMBO.
THE DEATH GLOW FLICKERS ON AND OFF...AND YET...
...DEATH BECOMES LESS OF A PROBABILITY AND MORE OF A CERTAINTY WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT...
...TILL IT SEEMS TO SURROUND US...HERALDING DEATH FOR ALL OF US...
...FOR THIS CITY...
...FOR OUR WHOLE WORLD.
CAN'T FIGHT IT ALONE...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
...IT JUST GLOWS BRIGHTER...
DANI...FAINT...!
CONCUSSION.
ARTIE, HELP.

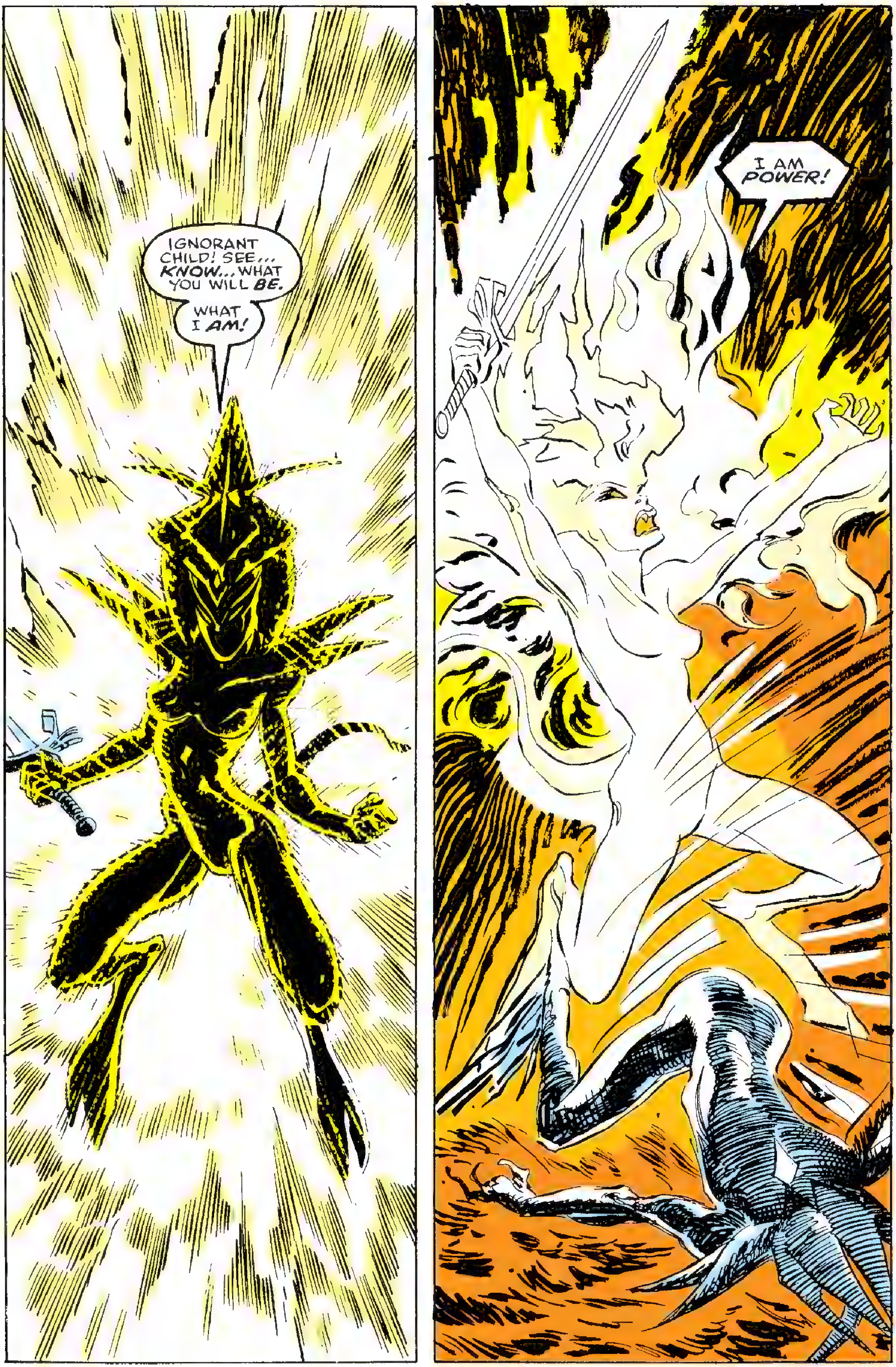

SEE, ALL OF YOU, THE STATE OF THE EARTH.
THE STATE OF MY OWN POWER.
MY SCRYING GLASS IS NOW RESTORED... IMPROVED.
SO EASY... NOW THAT I'M COMING TO ACCEPT WHAT I TRULY AM. WHAT I MUST BE.
HELP DANI.
HEAD HURT BAD.
MANHATTAN IS LOST.
MY BROTHER IS LOSING.
DANI'S DEATH-VISION SEES MOST CLEARLY WHAT THIS INVASION OF EARTH MEANS...
...THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF EVERYTHING.
UNLESS...
I'LL DO IT!
MY WHOLE EXISTENCE, MY WHOLE LIFE, HAS LED ME TO THIS MOMENT.
NO. NO. YOU CAN'T!
I WON'T LET YOU!
RAHNE! DON'T!

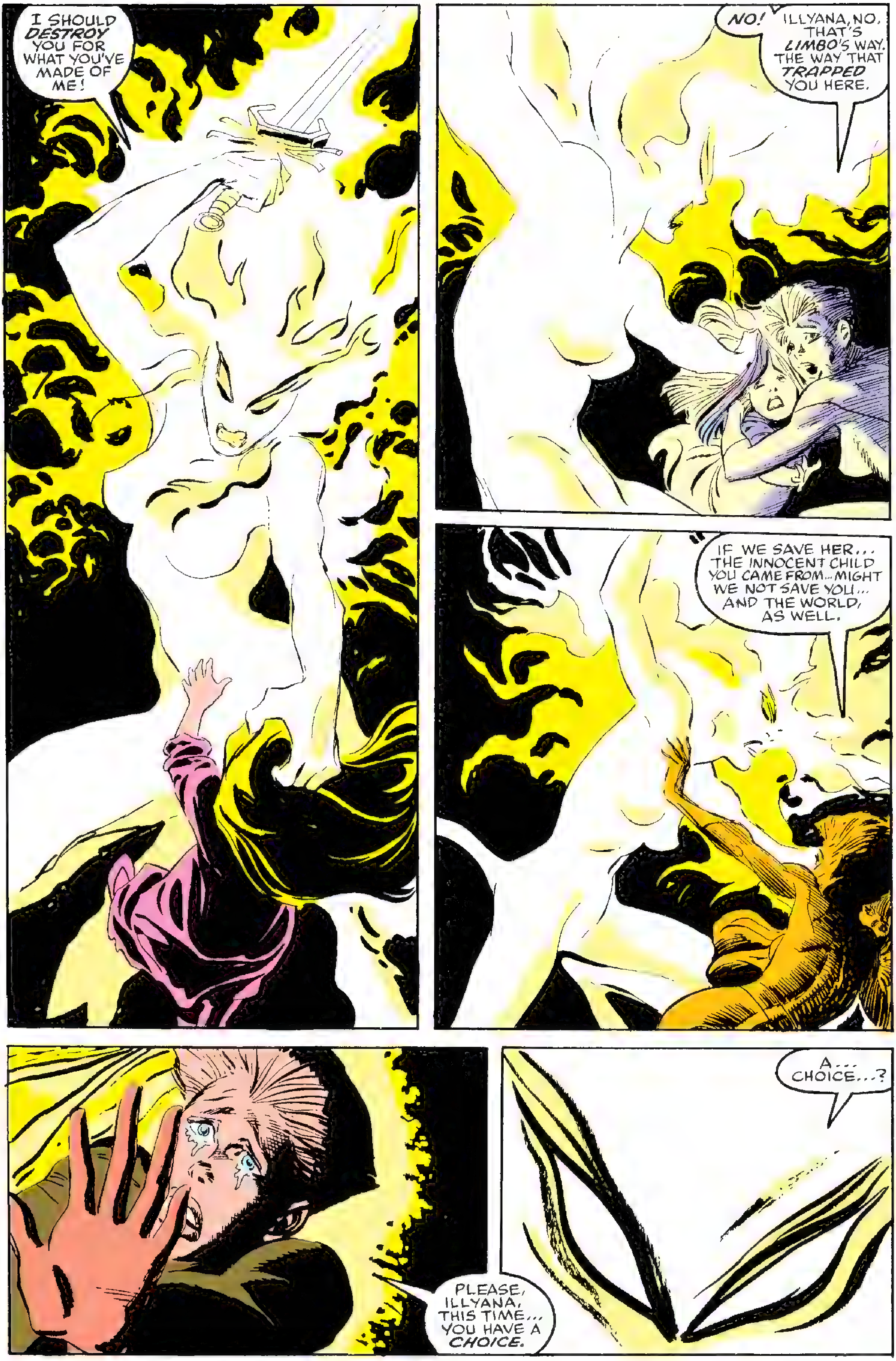

COME BACK HERE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT HOW SHE WAS WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
WE TRAVELED THROUGH ONE OF THOSE STEPPING DISCS, REMEMBER?
YOU SAW HER, TOO. INNOCENT... ALMOST A BABY.* TRAPPED IN LIMBO ...LOST IN TIME.
HOW COULD WE HAVE LET HER STAY HERE?
HOW COULD WE HAVE LET THAT HAPPEN?
*NM #71. --BOB
ILLYANA HAS CHOSEN. I CAN'T SAVE HER.
IT'S BEEN PREYING ON MY MIND SINCE FIRST I SAW HER.
I... I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET OUR ILLYANA STOP ME.
IT WAS HER LIFE, RAHNE. SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING.
RAHNE, LISTEN. THAT WAS IN THE PAST! THIS IS THE HERE AND NOW!
NOT IN LIMBO! LIMBO'S PAST, PRESENT, MAYBE EVEN FUTURE...

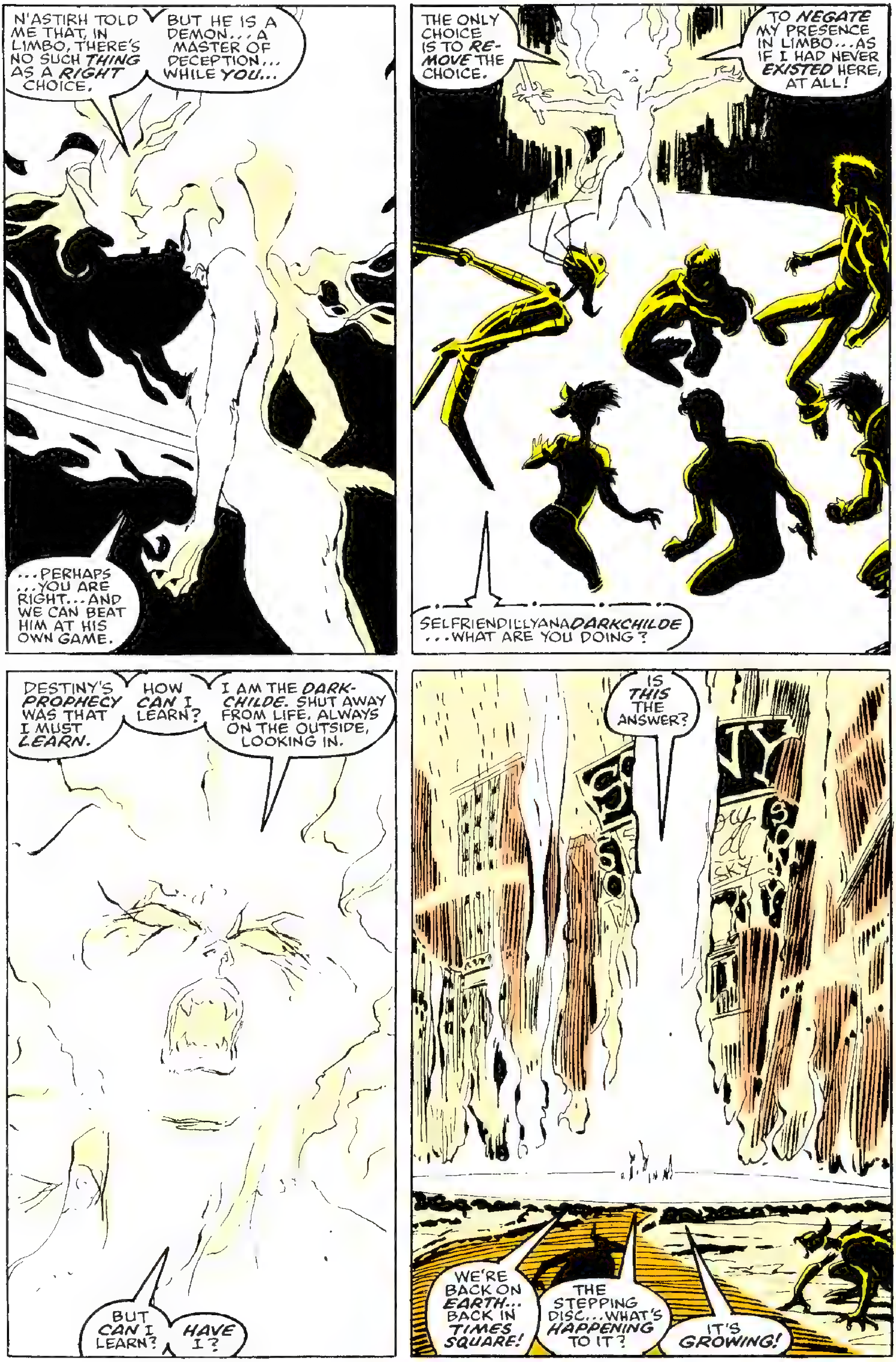

...CAN *ALL* BE *NOW!*
HER, AT LEAST, I HAVE TO *SAVE*.
SELFRIEND*RAHNE* ...COME *BACK!*
GET HER!
AW NO... NOT *AGAIN!*
WHERE ARE WE *NOW?*
GOOD QUESTION.
THE DISCS POP AT RANDOM THROUGHOUT TIME AND SPACE. THEY'RE WHY ALL TIMES IN *LIMBO* ARE THE *SAME* TIME.
ONLY *WE* CAN'T CONTROL WHERE THEY GO. *THAT* WAS *ILLYANA'S* SPECIALTY.
RAHNE, HAVE YOU GONE *MAD?* YOU'RE GOING TO GET US *LOST.* WE'RE LOST *ALREADY!*
I... I DON'T *CARE.* I DIDN'T *ASK* YOU TO FOLLOW ME.
I *HATE* LIMBO. IT FRIGHTENS ME NEAR TA DEATH.
AND IF IT FRIGHTENS *ME*, HOW MUCH *MORE* SO AN INNOCENT WEE *BABE?*
AFTER HER!

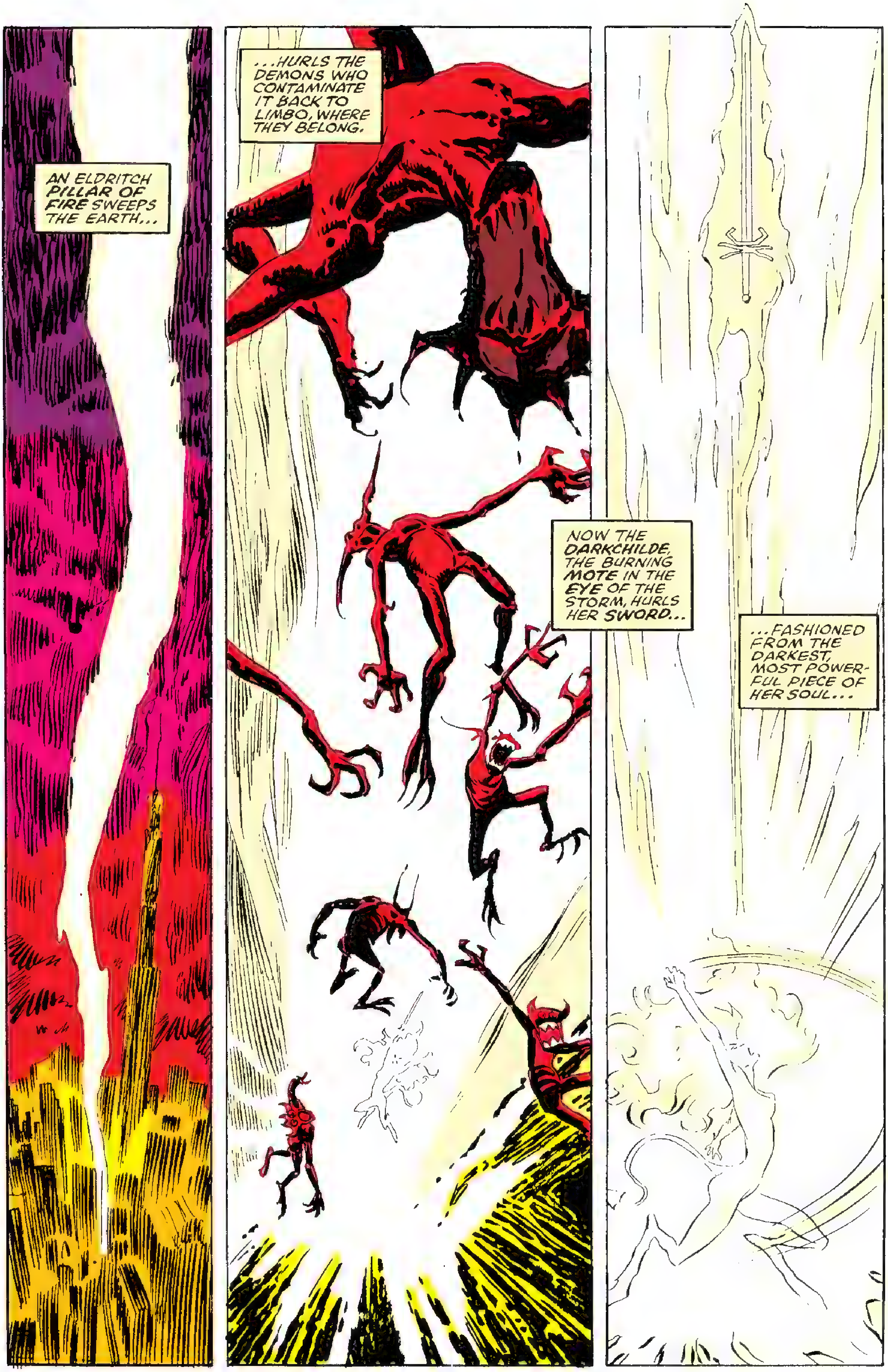

HEY, LOOK, MAYBE THIS ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA.
YOU *LIKE* SLUGGIN' IT OUT WITH DEMONS, RICTOR?
NOT ESPECIALLY, BUT... LOOK, IF WE SAVE THE *KID* AND GET HER OUT OF *LIMBO*...
...MAYBE THE DARKCHILDE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FULFILL HER DESTINY...
...AND NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED...?
SAM, *LOOK*, I THINK I *SEE* HER!
ILLYANA! BABY!
I *HAVE* YOU!
OH, GROSS, *ANOTHER* DISC!
WHERE ARE WE GOING *NOW*?

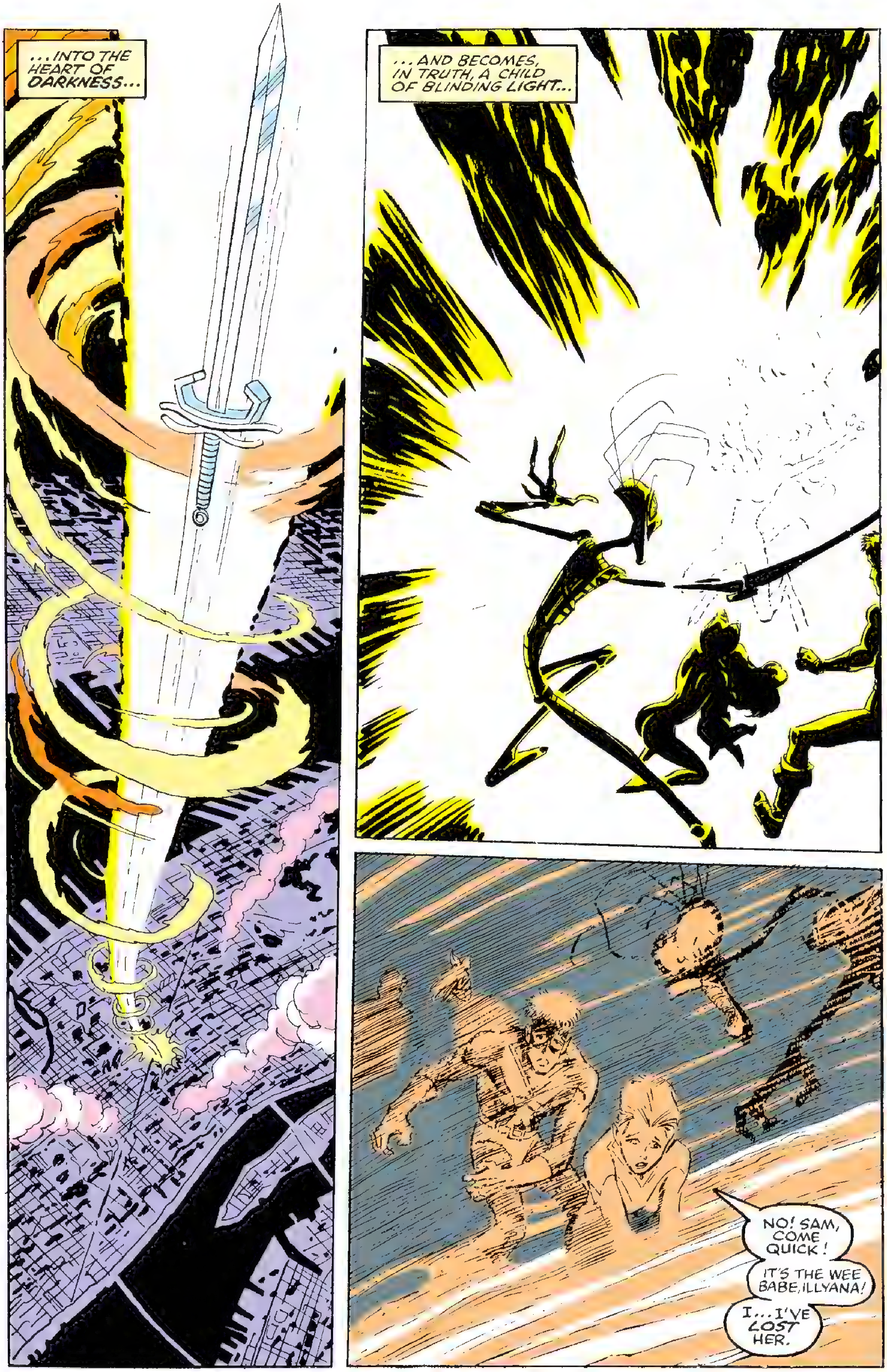

OH *NO!*
YOU *WENT...*
I *FELT...*
NO!
YOU!
YOU *CAUSED* ALL OF THIS!
WHAKT!
YOU SHOULD HAVE *DIED...* LIKE THE OTHERS.
BUT YOU FOUGHT TO *LIVE*, TO *BECOME* WHAT ONLY I COULD BECOME...
...AND IN THAT PROCESS TO DIE *INSIDE...* A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME...
...UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING *LEFT.*

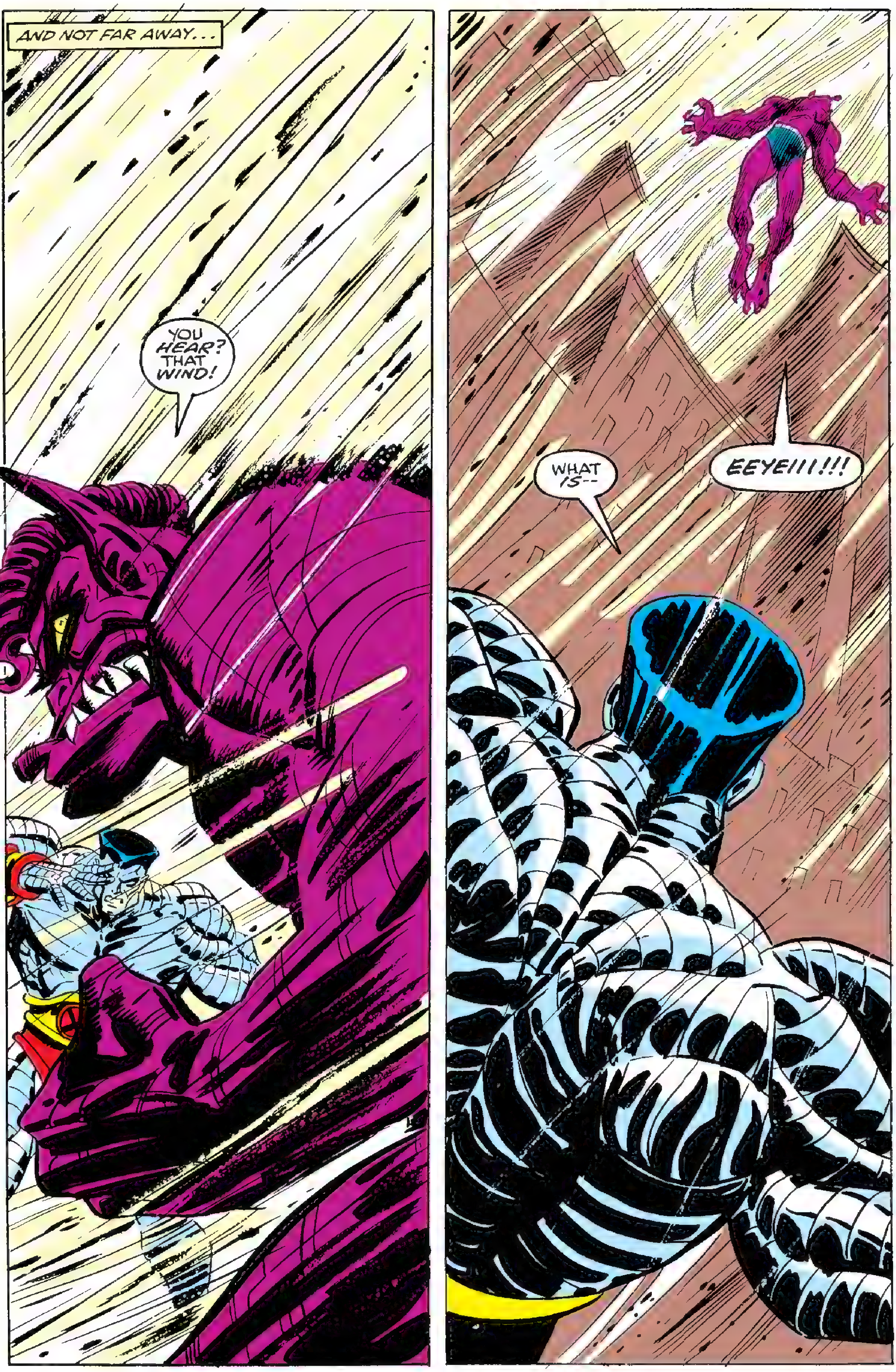

IGNORANT CHILD! SEE... KNOW... WHAT YOU WILL BE.
WHAT I AM!
I AM POWER!

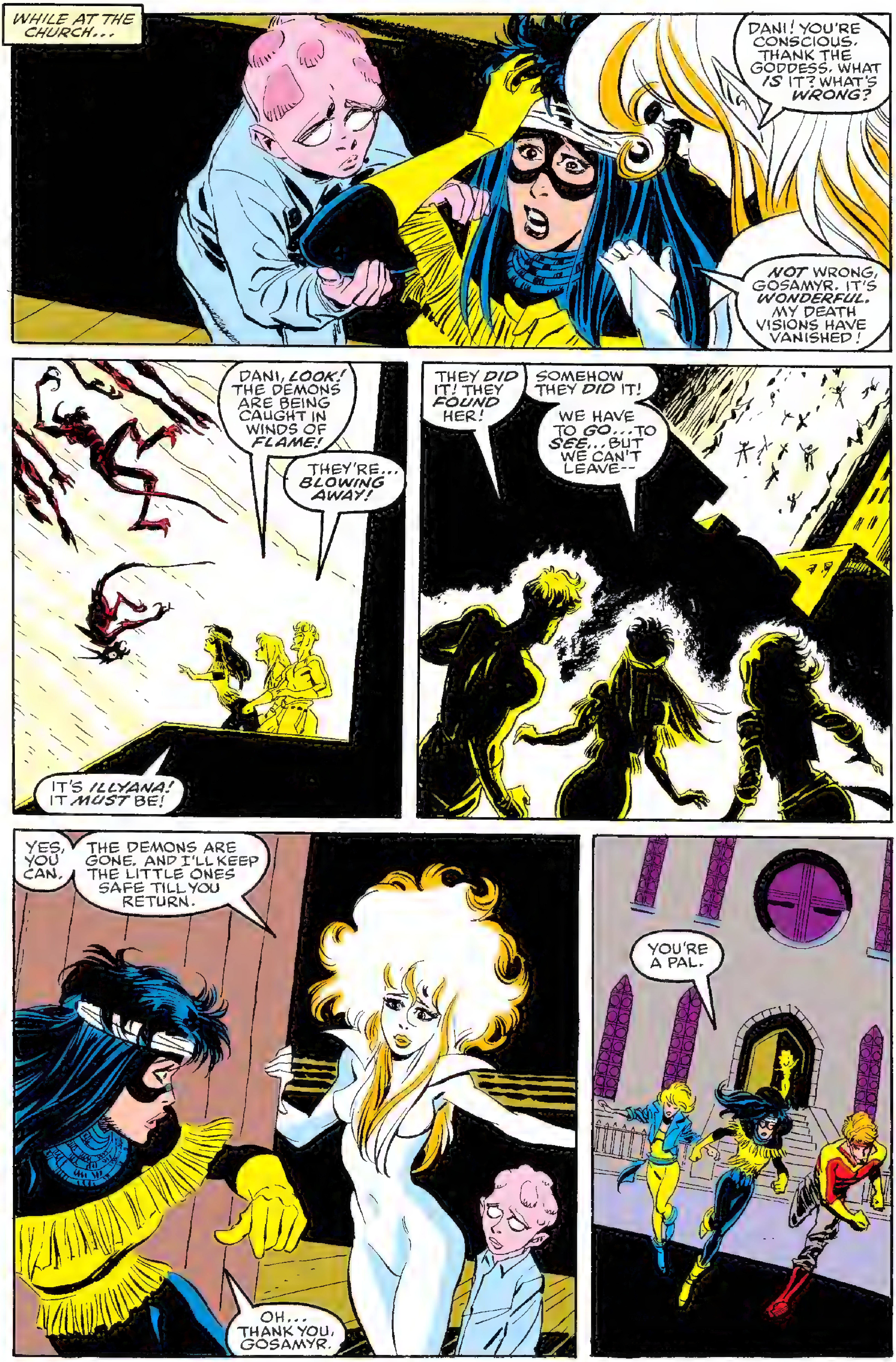

I SHOULD *DESTROY* YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE MADE OF ME!
NO!
ILLYANA, NO. THAT'S *LIMBO'S* WAY. THE WAY THAT *TRAPPED* YOU HERE.
IF WE SAVE HER... THE INNOCENT CHILD YOU CAME FROM... MIGHT WE NOT SAVE YOU... AND THE WORLD, AS WELL.
PLEASE, ILLYANA, THIS TIME... YOU HAVE A *CHOICE*.
A... CHOICE...?

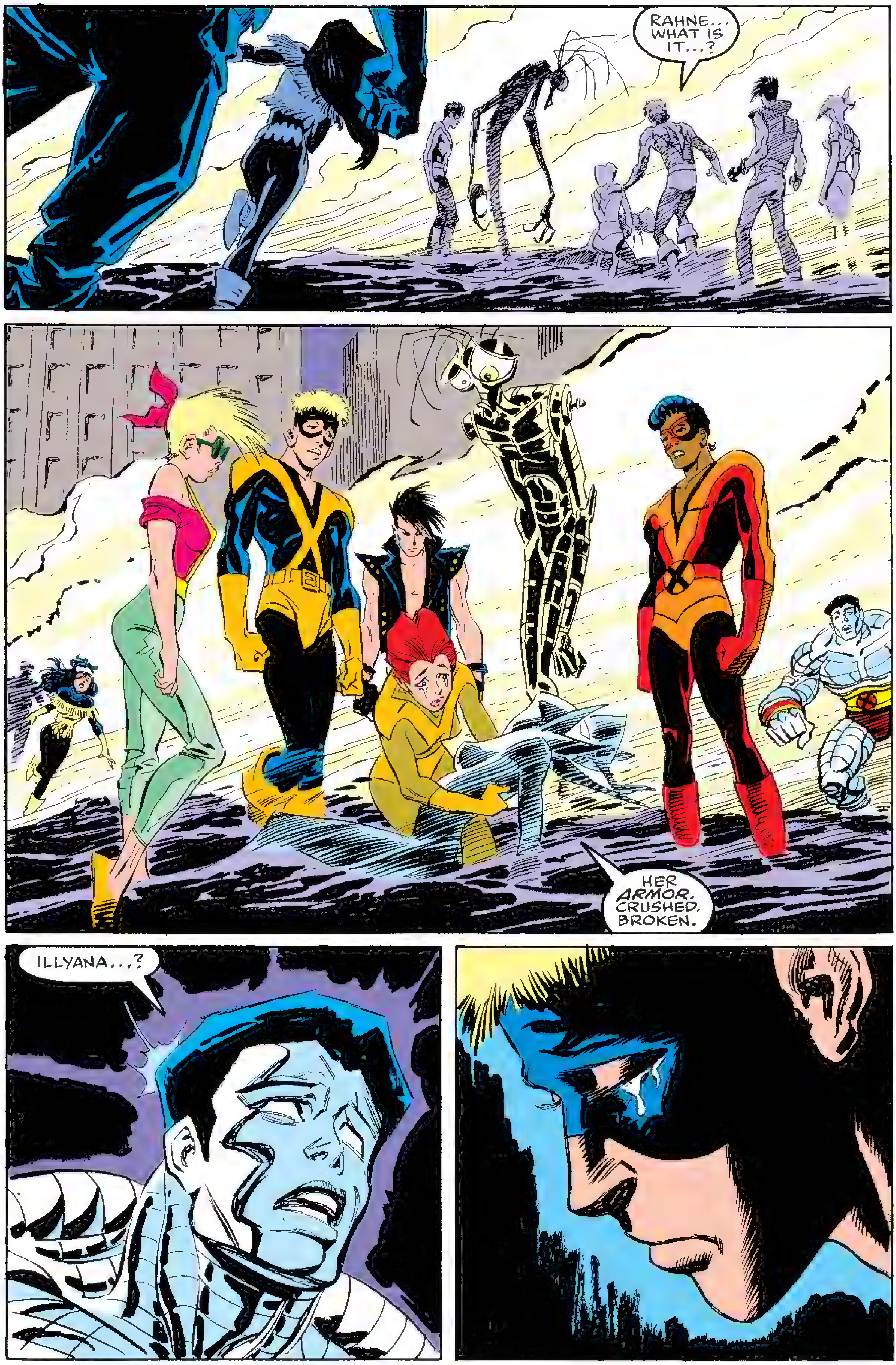

N'ASTIRH TOLD ME THAT, IN LIMBO, THERE'S NO SUCH *THING* AS A *RIGHT* CHOICE.
BUT HE IS A DEMON... A MASTER OF DECEPTION... WHILE *YOU*...
...PERHAPS ...YOU ARE RIGHT... AND WE CAN BEAT HIM AT HIS OWN GAME.
THE ONLY CHOICE IS TO *REMOVE* THE CHOICE.
TO *NEGATE* MY PRESENCE IN LIMBO... AS IF I HAD NEVER *EXISTED* HERE, AT ALL!
SELFRIENDILLYANA*DARKCHILDE* ...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DESTINY'S *PROPHECY* WAS THAT I MUST *LEARN*.
HOW *CAN* I LEARN?
I AM THE *DARKCHILDE*. SHUT AWAY FROM LIFE. ALWAYS ON THE OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN.
BUT *CAN* I LEARN?
HAVE I?
IS *THIS* THE ANSWER?
WE'RE BACK ON *EARTH*... BACK IN *TIMES SQUARE!*
THE STEPPING DISC... WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO IT?
IT'S *GROWING!*

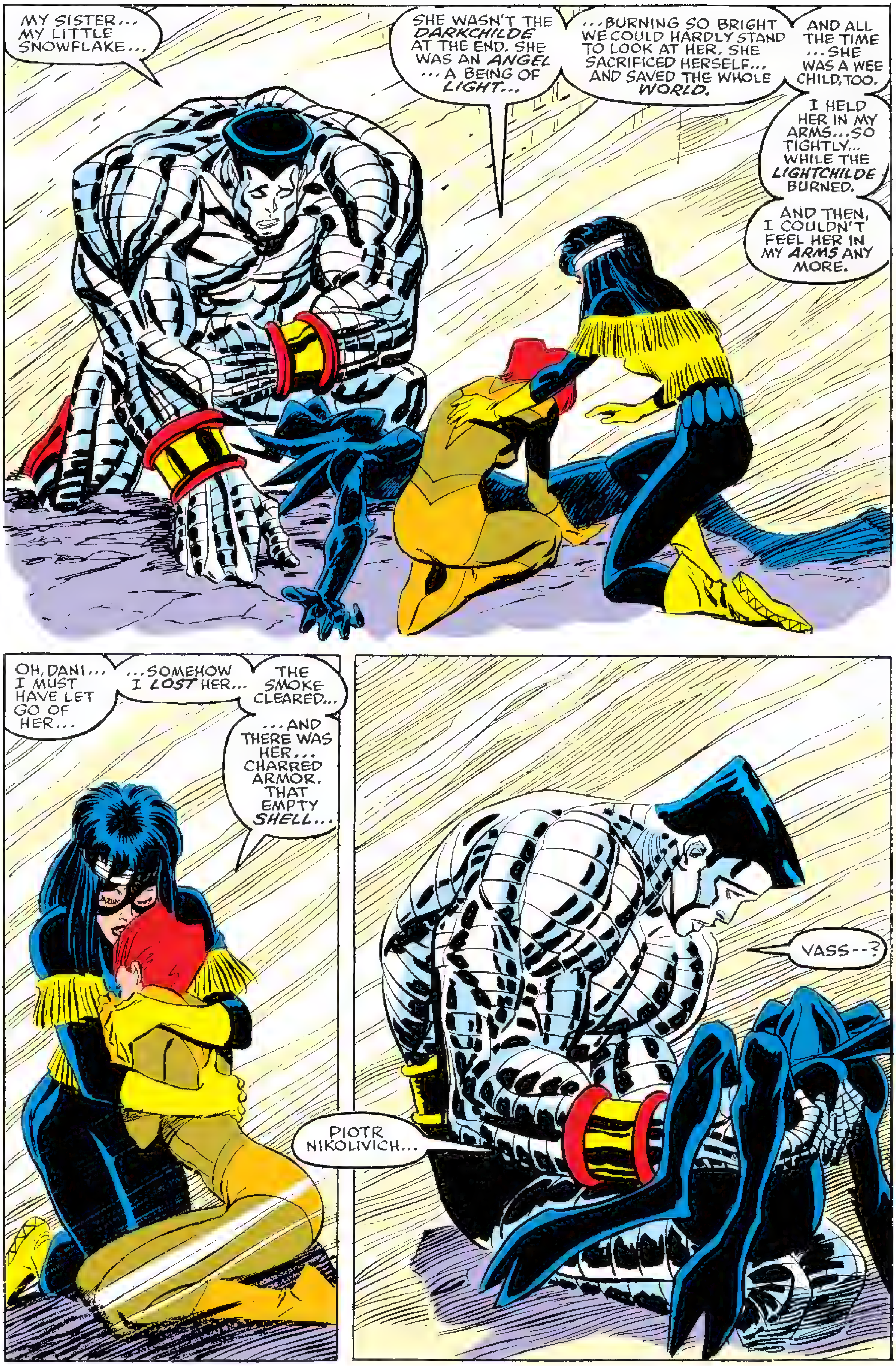

AN ELDRITCH **PILLAR OF FIRE** SWEEPS THE EARTH...
...HURLS THE DEMONS WHO CONTAMINATE IT BACK TO LIMBO, WHERE THEY BELONG.
NOW THE **DARKCHILDE**, THE BURNING **MOTE** IN THE **EYE** OF THE STORM, HURLS HER **SWORD**...
...FASHIONED FROM THE DARKEST, MOST POWERFUL PIECE OF HER SOUL...

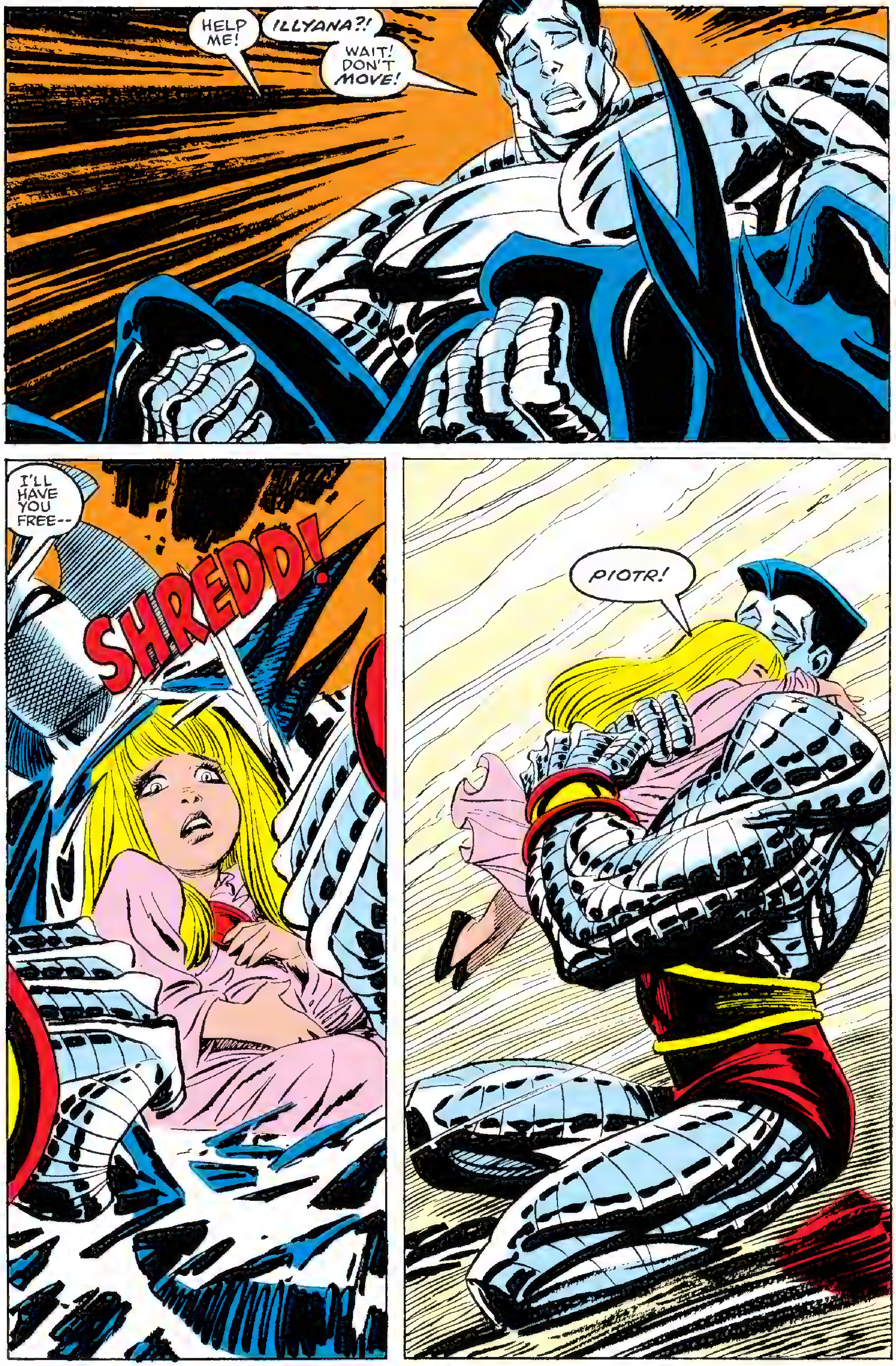

...INTO THE HEART OF DARKNESS...
...AND BECOMES, IN TRUTH, A CHILD OF BLINDING LIGHT...
NO! SAM, COME QUICK!
IT'S THE WEE BABE, ILLYANA!
I...I'VE *LOST* HER.

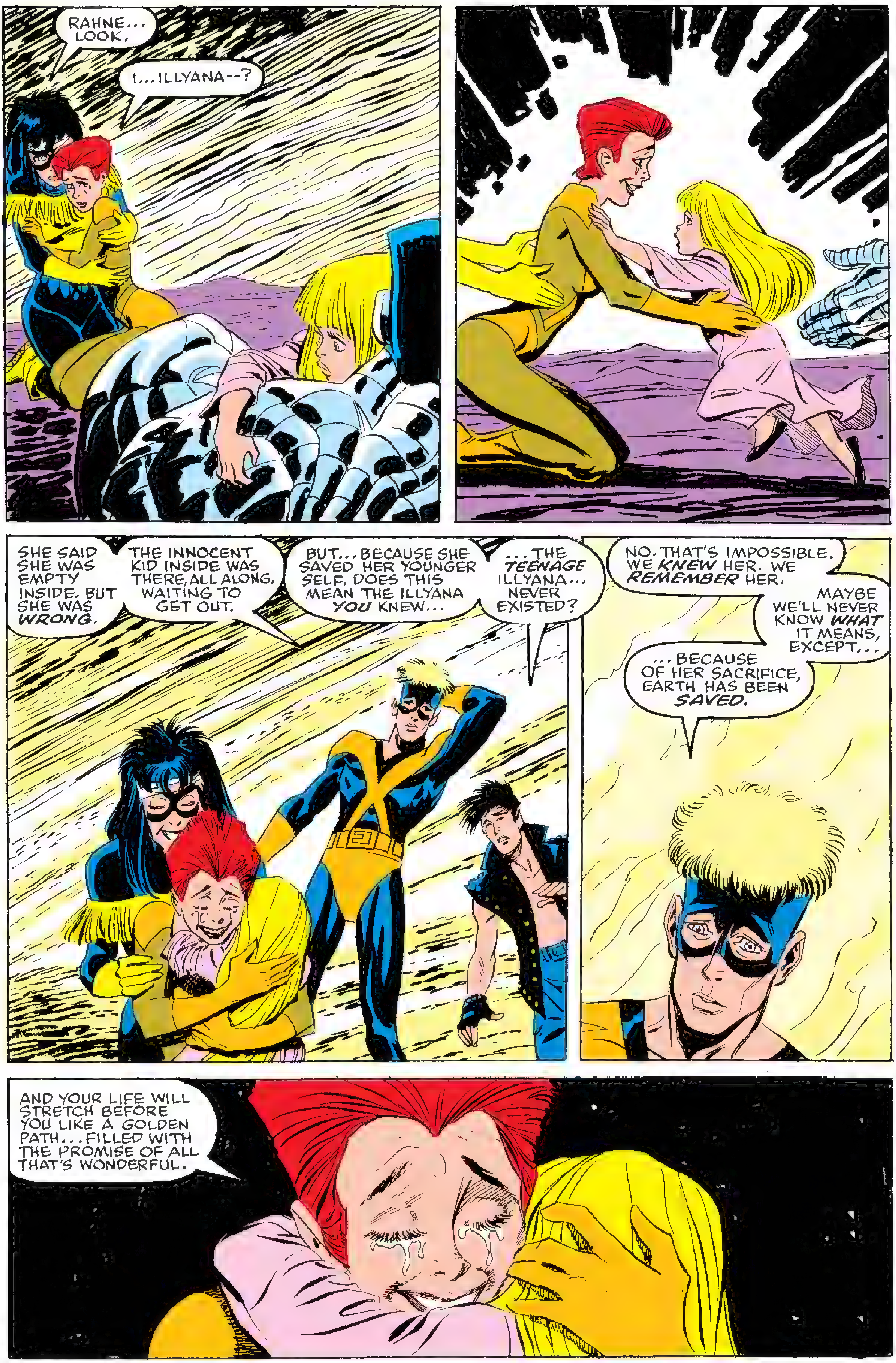

AND NOT FAR AWAY...
YOU HEAR? THAT WIND!
WHAT IS--
EEYEIII!!!

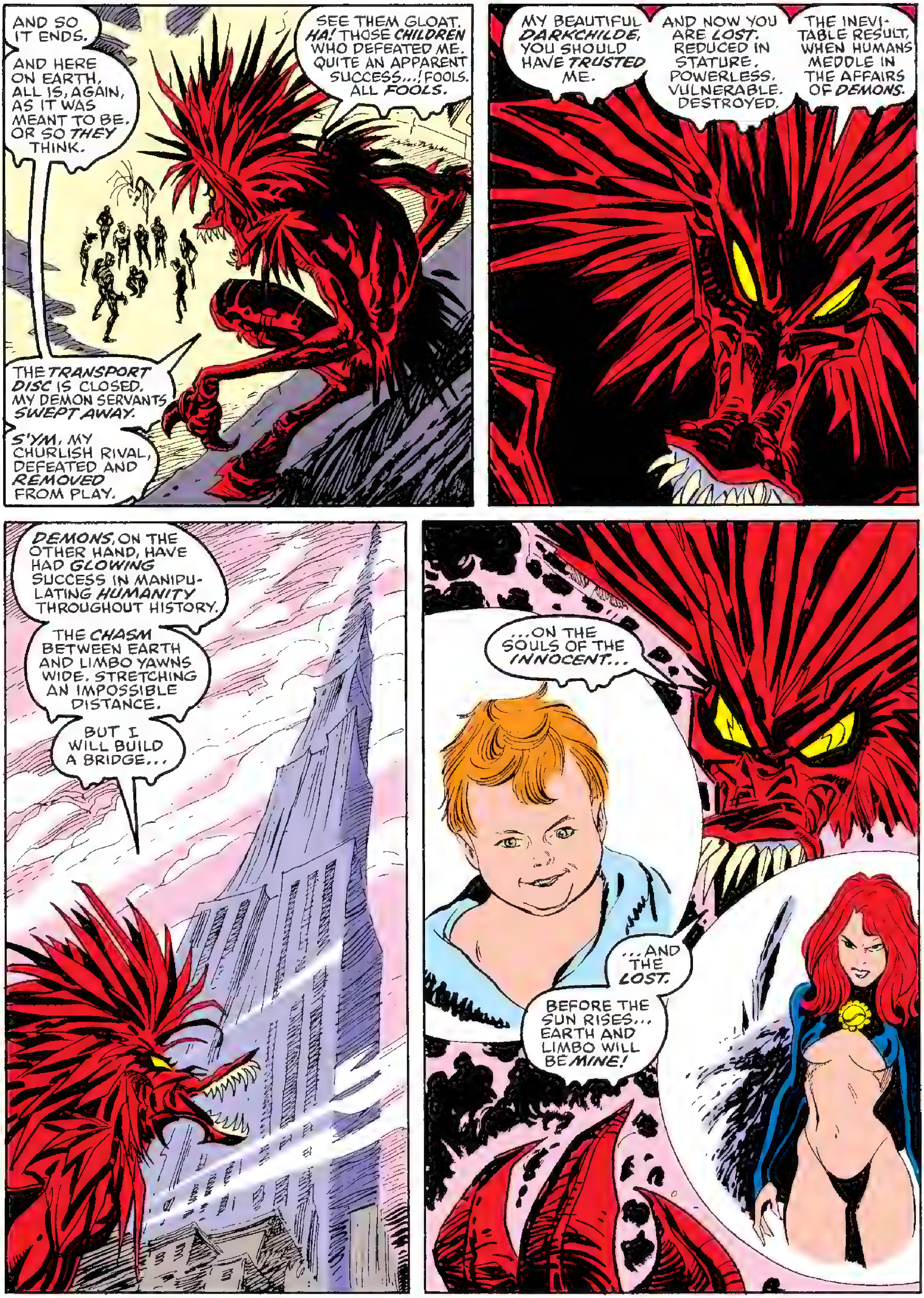

WHILE AT THE CHURCH...
DANI! YOU'RE CONSCIOUS. THANK THE GODDESS. WHAT *IS* IT? WHAT'S *WRONG?*
NOT WRONG, GOSAMYR. IT'S *WONDERFUL.* MY DEATH VISIONS HAVE VANISHED!
DANI, *LOOK!* THE DEMONS ARE BEING CAUGHT IN WINDS OF *FLAME!*
THEY'RE... *BLOWING AWAY!*
IT'S *ILLYANA!* IT *MUST* BE!
THEY *DID* IT! THEY *FOUND* HER!
SOMEHOW THEY *DID* IT!
WE HAVE TO *GO*... TO *SEE*... BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE--
YES, YOU CAN.
THE DEMONS ARE GONE, AND I'LL KEEP THE LITTLE ONES SAFE TILL YOU RETURN.
OH... THANK YOU, GOSAMYR.
YOU'RE A PAL.


RAHNE... WHAT IS IT...?
HER *ARMOR.* CRUSHED. BROKEN.
ILLYANA...?


MY SISTER... MY LITTLE SNOWFLAKE...
SHE WASN'T THE *DARKCHILDE* AT THE END. SHE WAS AN *ANGEL* ... A BEING OF *LIGHT*...
...BURNING SO BRIGHT WE COULD HARDLY STAND TO LOOK AT HER. SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF... AND SAVED THE WHOLE *WORLD.*
AND ALL THE TIME ...SHE WAS A WEE CHILD, TOO.
I HELD HER IN MY ARMS...SO TIGHTLY... WHILE THE *LIGHTCHILDE* BURNED.
AND THEN, I COULDN'T FEEL HER IN MY *ARMS* ANY MORE.
OH, DANI... I MUST HAVE LET GO OF HER...
...SOMEHOW I *LOST* HER...
THE SMOKE CLEARED...
...AND THERE WAS HER... CHARRED ARMOR. THAT EMPTY *SHELL*...
VASS--?
PIOTR NIKOLIVICH...


HELP ME!
ILLYANA?!
WAIT! DON'T MOVE!
I'LL HAVE YOU FREE--
SHREDD!
PIOTR!


RAHNE... LOOK.
I...ILLYANA--?
SHE SAID SHE WAS EMPTY INSIDE. BUT SHE WAS *WRONG.*
THE INNOCENT KID INSIDE WAS THERE, ALL ALONG, WAITING TO GET OUT.
BUT... BECAUSE SHE SAVED HER YOUNGER SELF, DOES THIS MEAN THE ILLYANA *YOU* KNEW...
...THE *TEENAGE* ILLYANA... NEVER EXISTED?
NO. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. WE *KNEW* HER. WE *REMEMBER* HER.
MAYBE WE'LL NEVER KNOW *WHAT* IT MEANS, EXCEPT...
...BECAUSE OF HER SACRIFICE, EARTH HAS BEEN *SAVED.*
AND YOUR LIFE WILL STRETCH BEFORE YOU LIKE A GOLDEN PATH... FILLED WITH THE PROMISE OF ALL THAT'S WONDERFUL.


AND SO IT ENDS.
AND HERE ON EARTH, ALL IS, AGAIN, AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE. OR SO *THEY* THINK.
SEE THEM GLOAT. *HA!* THOSE *CHILDREN* WHO DEFEATED ME. QUITE AN APPARENT SUCCESS...! FOOLS. ALL *FOOLS.*
THE *TRANSPORT DISC* IS CLOSED. MY DEMON SERVANTS *SWEPT AWAY.*
S'YM, MY CHURLISH RIVAL, DEFEATED AND *REMOVED* FROM PLAY.
MY BEAUTIFUL *DARKCHILDE*, YOU SHOULD HAVE *TRUSTED* ME.
AND NOW YOU ARE *LOST.* REDUCED IN STATURE. POWERLESS. VULNERABLE. DESTROYED.
THE INEVITABLE RESULT, WHEN HUMANS MEDDLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF *DEMONS.*
DEMONS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE HAD *GLOWING* SUCCESS IN MANIPULATING *HUMANITY* THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
THE *CHASM* BETWEEN EARTH AND LIMBO YAWNS WIDE. STRETCHING AN IMPOSSIBLE DISTANCE.
BUT I WILL BUILD A BRIDGE...
...ON THE SOULS OF THE *INNOCENT...*
...AND THE *LOST.*
BEFORE THE SUN RISES... EARTH AND LIMBO WILL BE *MINE!*

*THE BATTLE FOR THE EARTH HAS JUST BEGUN! **INFERNO** CONCLUDES IN **X-MEN** #242 AND **X-FACTOR** #38. CHECK IT OUT.*

NEXT:** DO THE **X-TERMINATORS** REALLY HAVE* **THE RIGHT STUFF** *TO JOIN THE **NEW MUTANTS?

*FIND OUT **NEXT ISSUE**... IF THERE **IS** A NEXT ISSUE...!*

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THE NEW MUTANTS®
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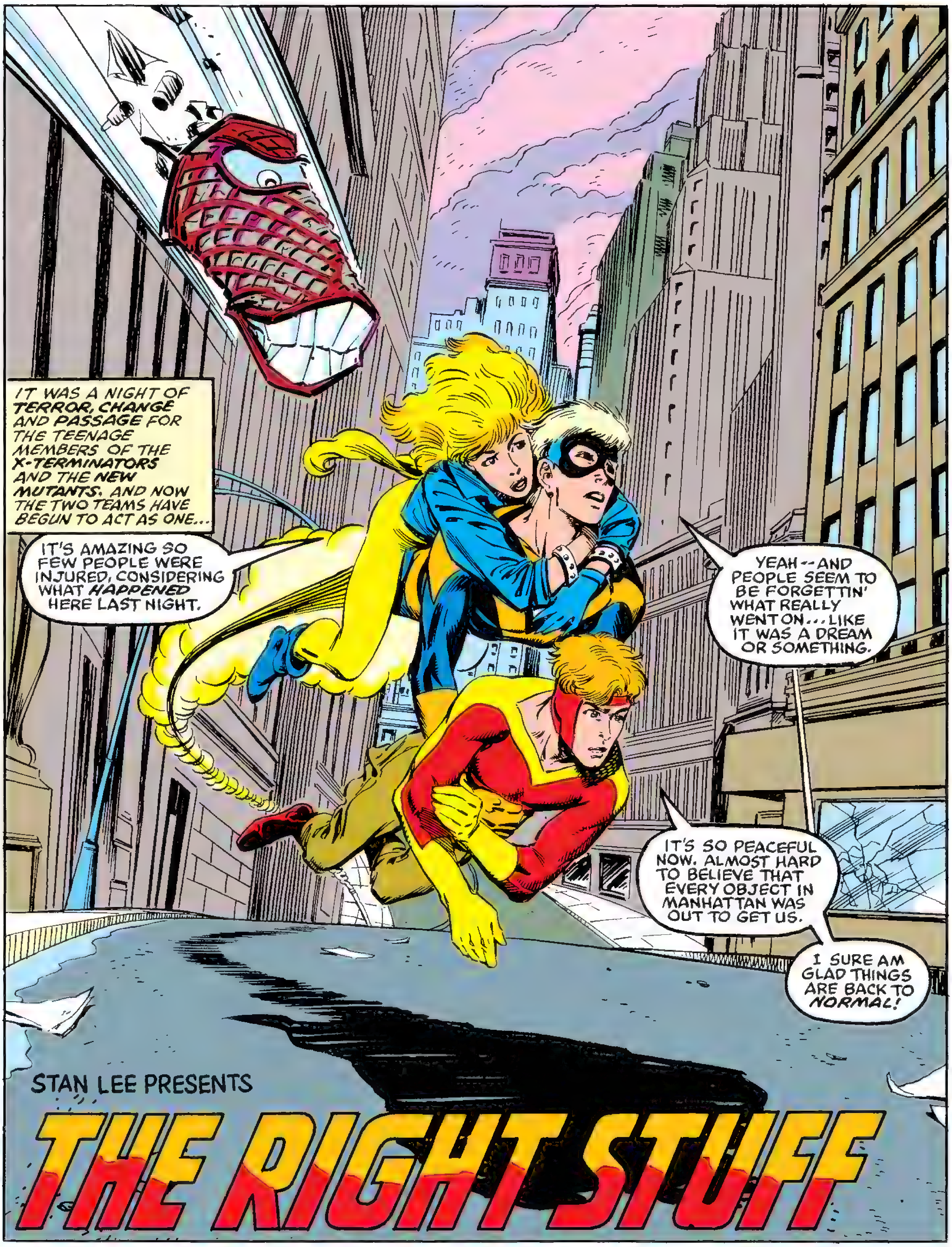
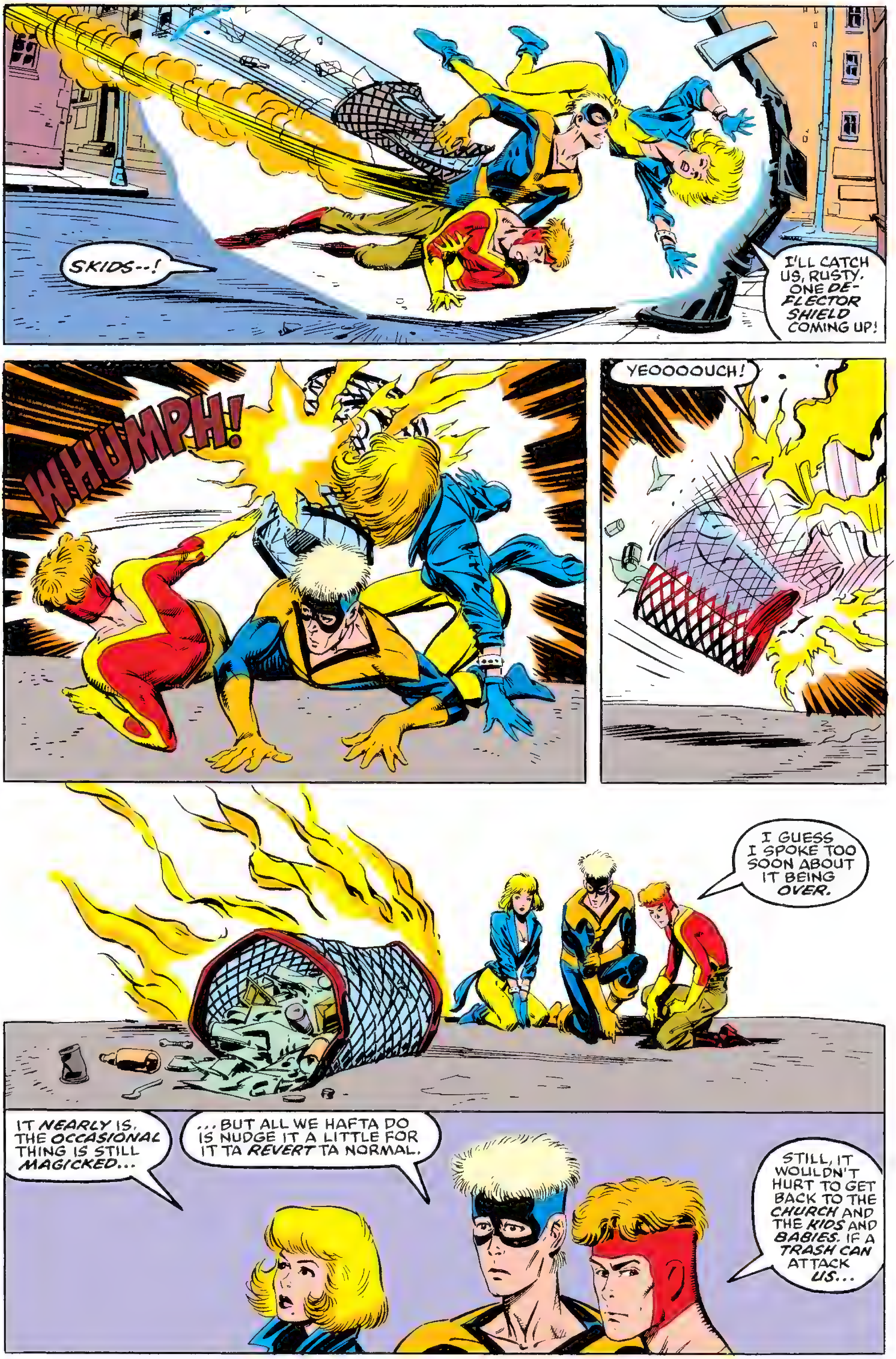
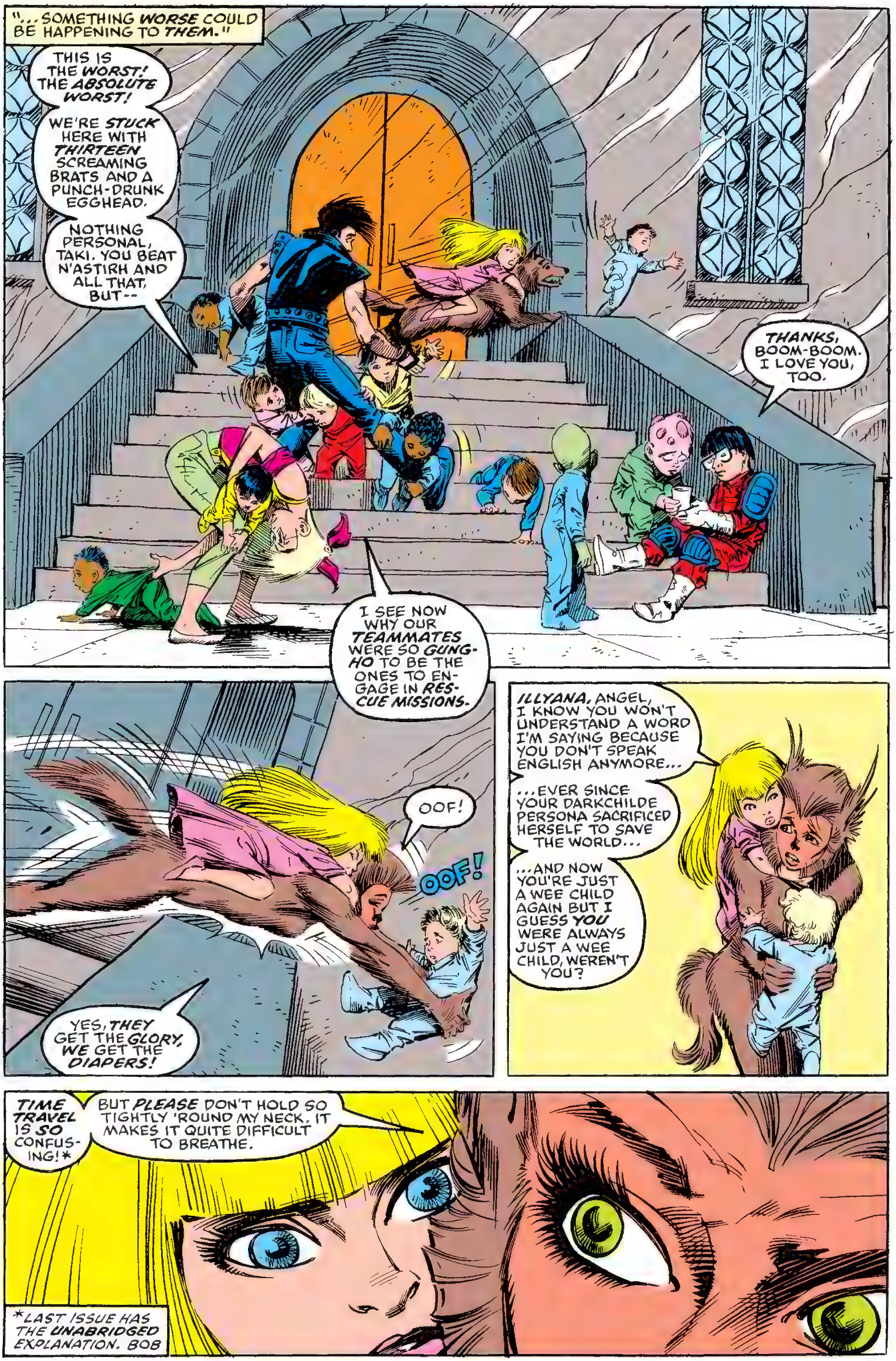
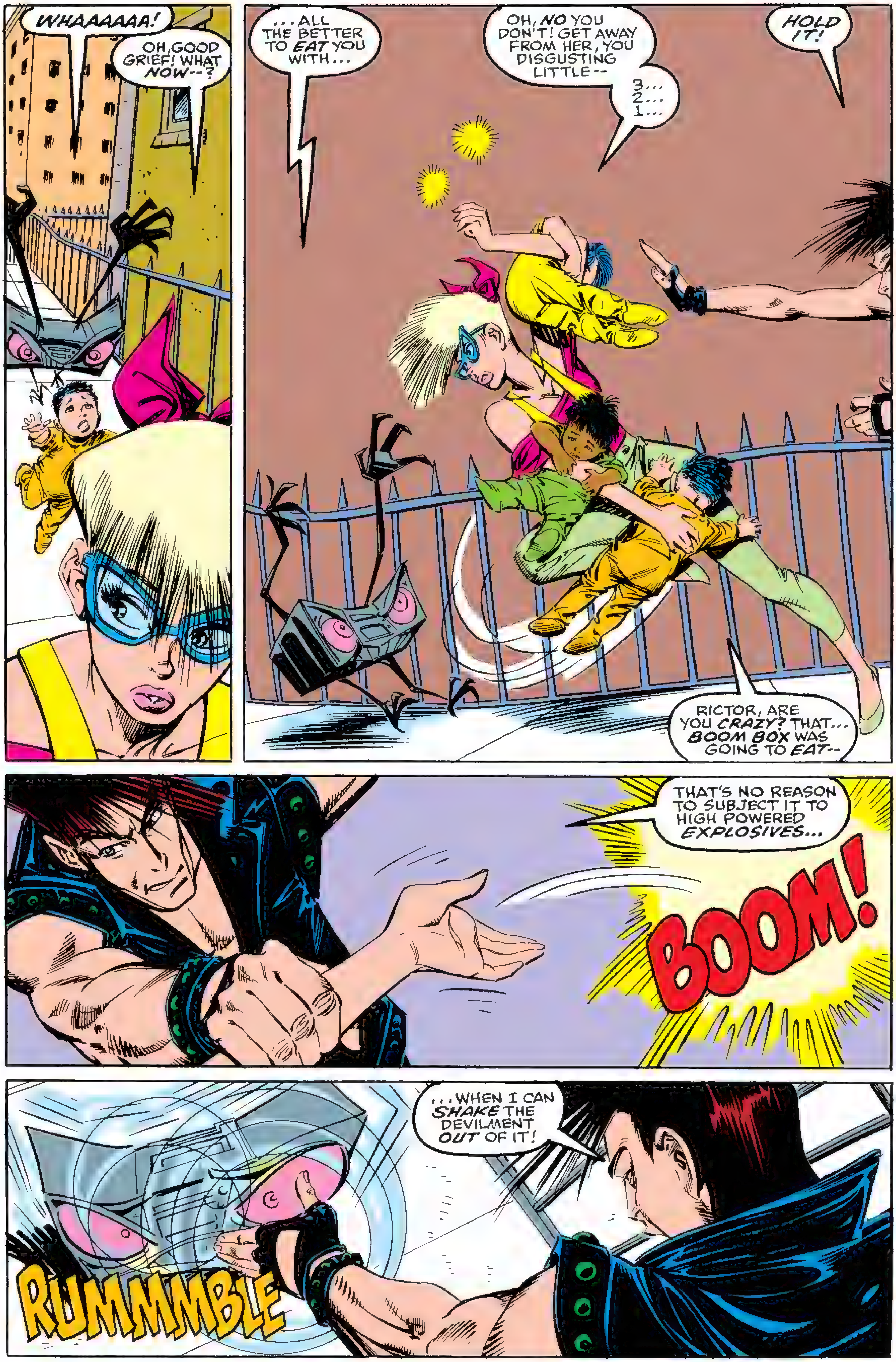
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
...AND THE X-TERMINATORS™ BATTLE X-FACTOR'S LIVING SHIP...
...FOR THE LIFE OF GOSAMYR™!

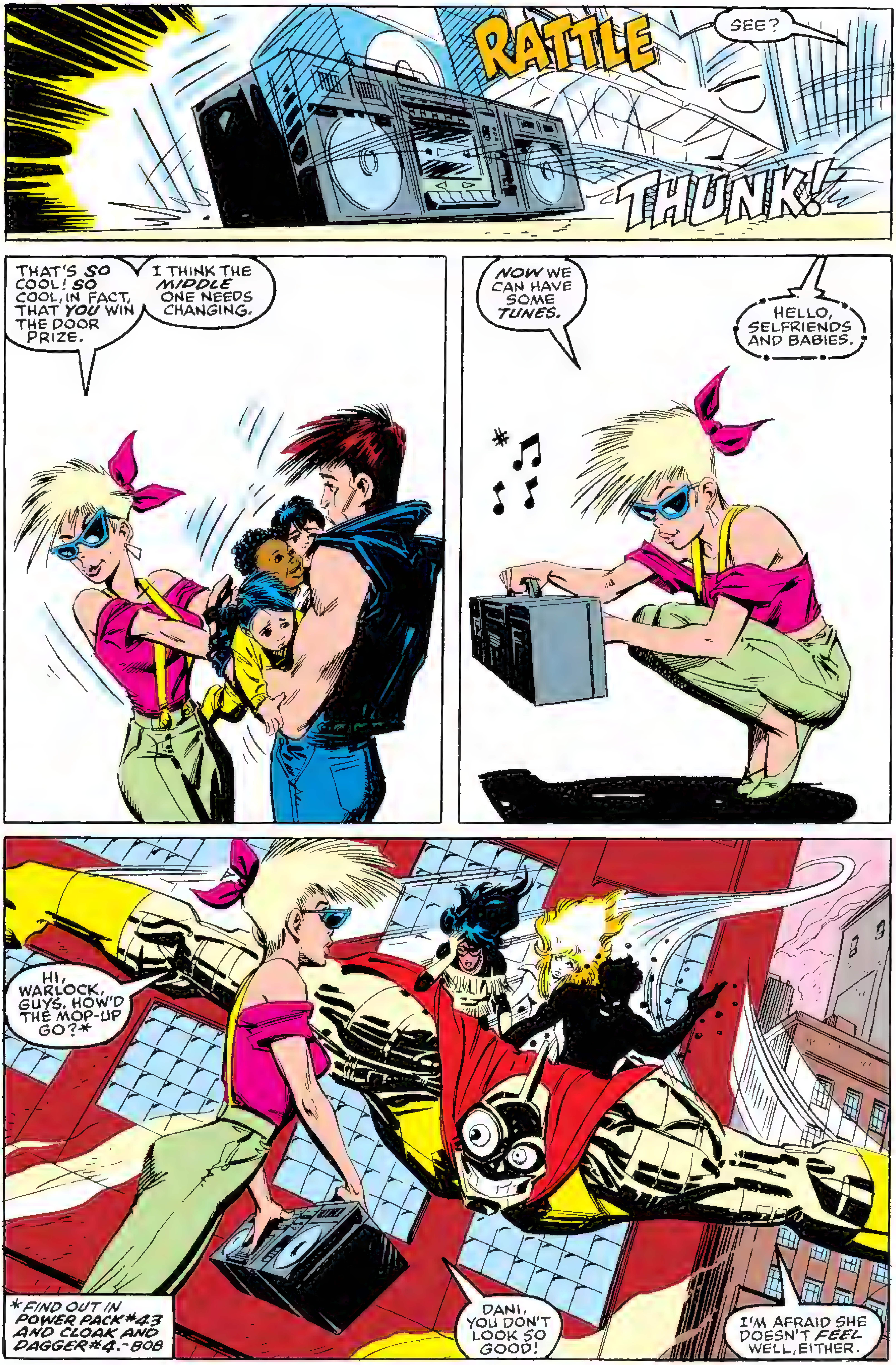

IT WAS A NIGHT OF *TERROR, CHANGE* AND *PASSAGE* FOR THE TEENAGE MEMBERS OF THE *X-TERMINATORS* AND THE *NEW MUTANTS.* AND NOW THE TWO TEAMS HAVE BEGUN TO ACT AS ONE...
IT'S AMAZING SO FEW PEOPLE WERE INJURED, CONSIDERING WHAT *HAPPENED* HERE LAST NIGHT.
YEAH--AND PEOPLE SEEM TO BE FORGETTIN' WHAT REALLY WENT ON... LIKE IT WAS A DREAM OR SOMETHING.
IT'S SO PEACEFUL NOW. ALMOST HARD TO BELIEVE THAT EVERY OBJECT IN MANHATTAN WAS OUT TO GET US.
I SURE AM GLAD THINGS ARE BACK TO *NORMAL!*
STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE RIGHT STUFF

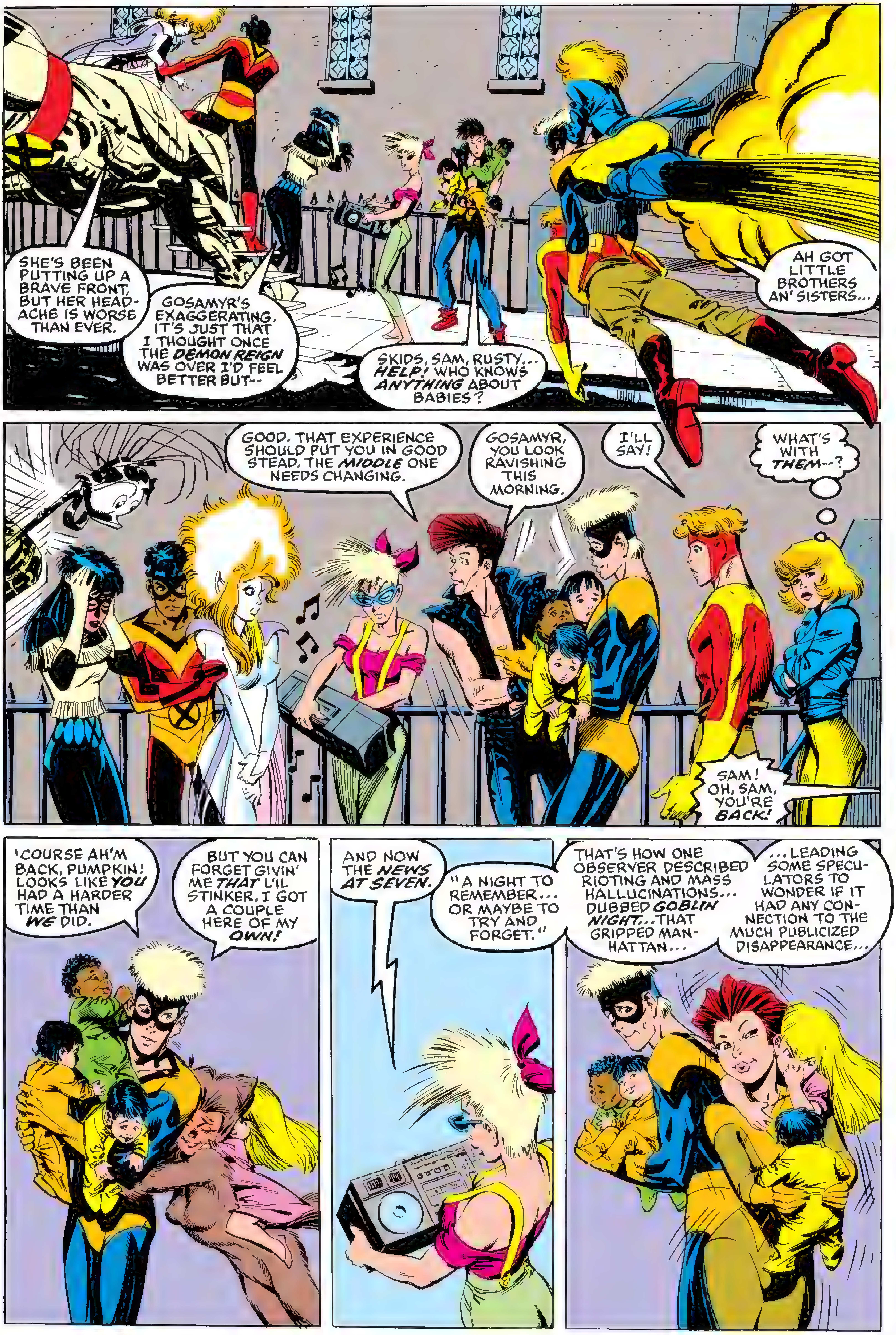
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
BRET BLEVINS PENCILER
BOB WIACEK INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

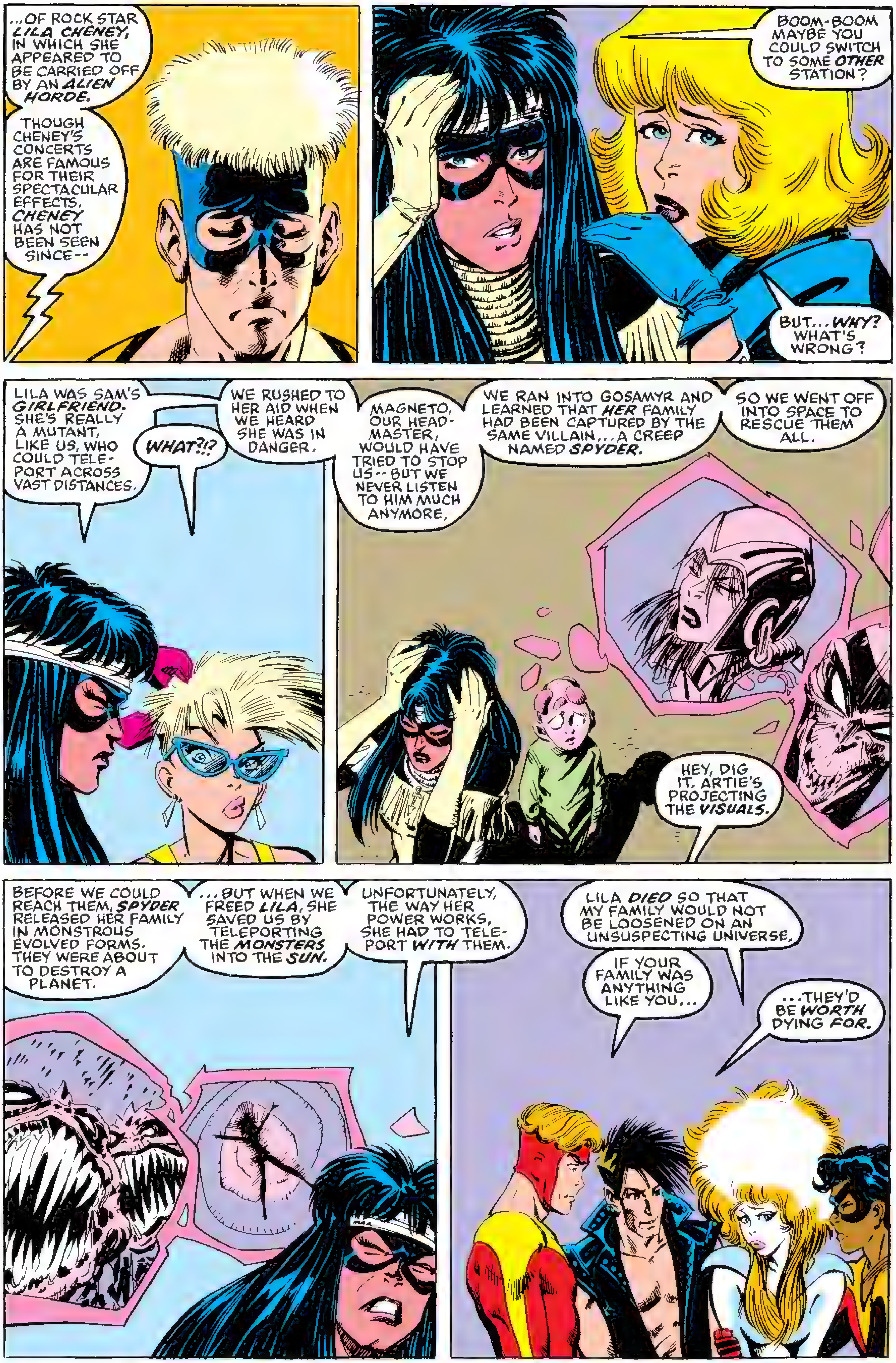

SKIDS--!
I'LL CATCH US, RUSTY. ONE DEFLECTOR SHIELD COMING UP!
WHUMPH!
YEOOOOUCH!
I GUESS I SPOKE TOO SOON ABOUT IT BEING OVER.
IT NEARLY IS. THE OCCASIONAL THING IS STILL MAGICKED...
...BUT ALL WE HAFTA DO IS NUDGE IT A LITTLE FOR IT TA REVERT TA NORMAL.
STILL, IT WOULDN'T HURT TO GET BACK TO THE CHURCH AND THE KIDS AND BABIES. IF A TRASH CAN ATTACK US...

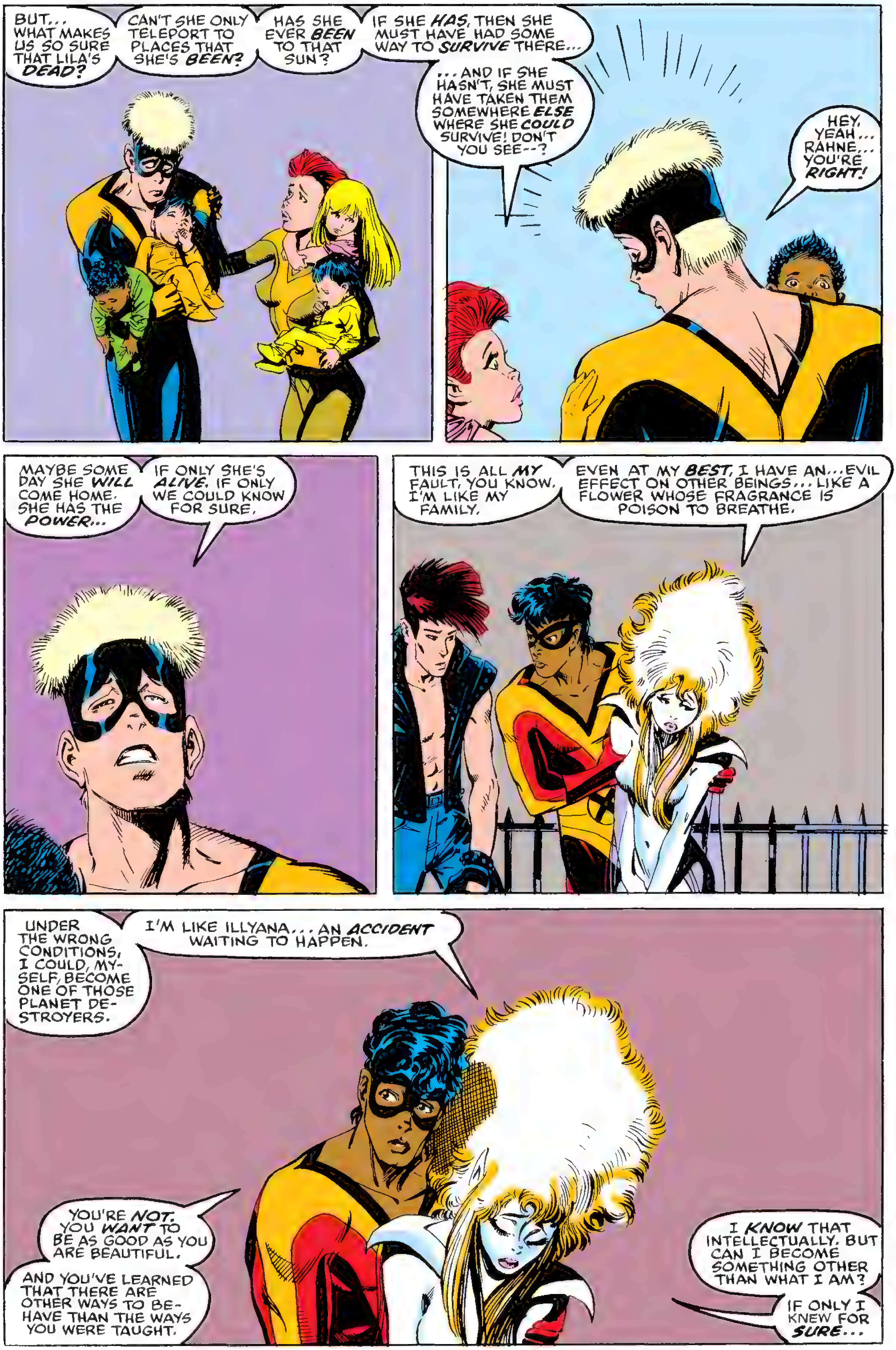

"...SOMETHING *WORSE* COULD BE HAPPENING TO *THEM*."
THIS IS THE *WORST!* THE *ABSOLUTE WORST!*
WE'RE *STUCK* HERE WITH *THIRTEEN* SCREAMING BRATS AND A PUNCH-DRUNK EGGHEAD.
NOTHING PERSONAL, TAKI. YOU BEAT N'ASTIRH AND ALL THAT, BUT--
THANKS, BOOM-BOOM. I LOVE YOU, TOO.
I SEE NOW WHY OUR *TEAMMATES* WERE SO *GUNG-HO* TO BE THE ONES TO ENGAGE IN *RESCUE MISSIONS.*
OOF!
OOF!
YES, *THEY* GET THE *GLORY,* *WE* GET THE *DIAPERS!*
ILLYANA, ANGEL, I KNOW YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD I'M SAYING BECAUSE YOU DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH ANYMORE...
...EVER SINCE YOUR DARKCHILDE PERSONA SACRIFICED HERSELF TO SAVE THE WORLD...
...AND NOW YOU'RE JUST A WEE CHILD AGAIN BUT I GUESS *YOU* WERE ALWAYS JUST A WEE CHILD, WEREN'T YOU?
TIME TRAVEL IS *SO* CONFUSING!*
BUT *PLEASE* DON'T HOLD SO TIGHTLY 'ROUND MY NECK. IT MAKES IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO BREATHE.
*LAST ISSUE HAS THE *UNABRIDGED* EXPLANATION. BOB

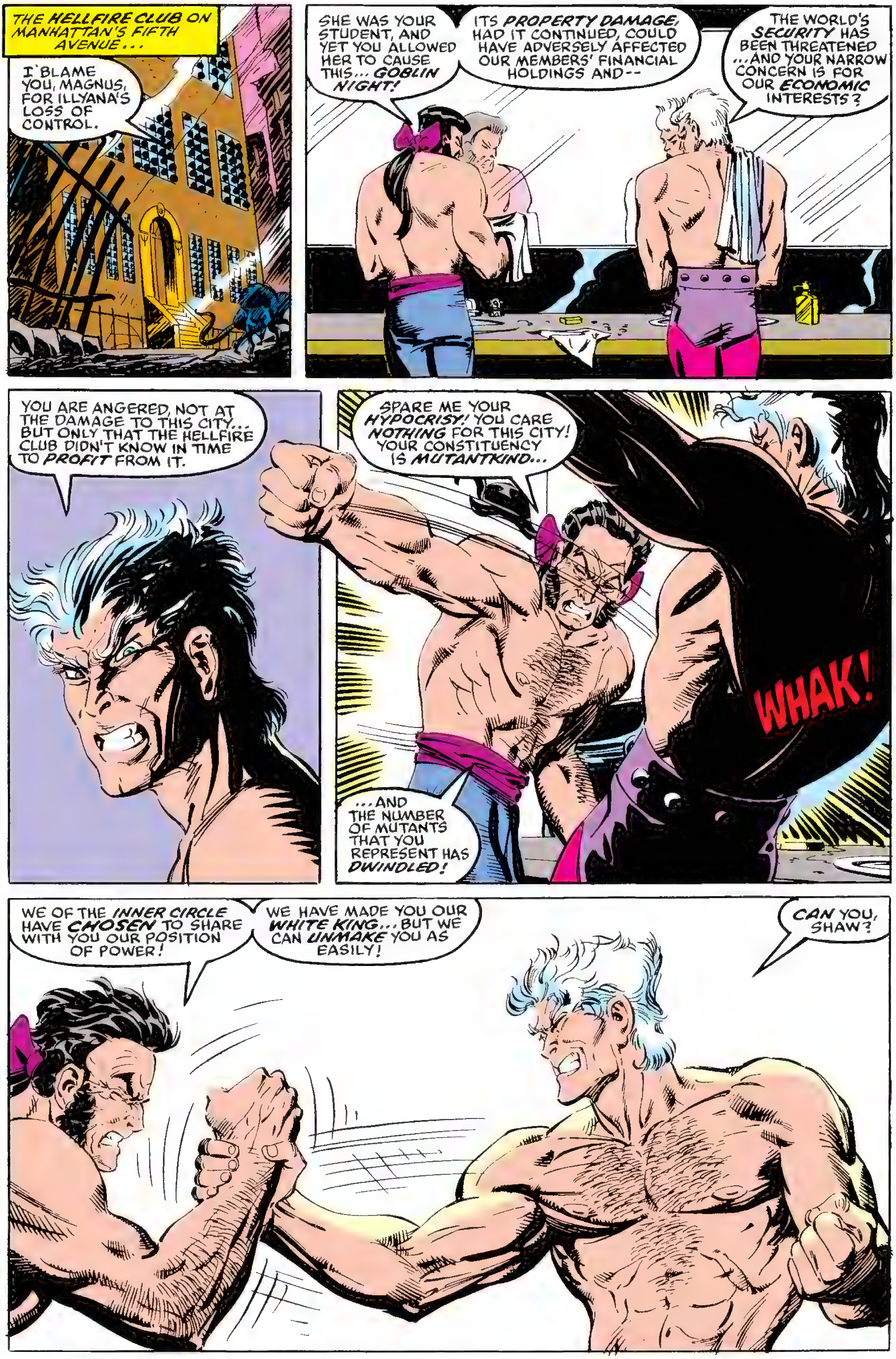

WHAAAAAA!
OH, GOOD GRIEF! WHAT NOW--?
...ALL THE BETTER TO EAT YOU WITH...
OH, NO YOU DON'T! GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU DISGUSTING LITTLE--
3... 2... 1...
HOLD IT!
RICTOR, ARE YOU CRAZY? THAT... BOOM BOX WAS GOING TO EAT--
THAT'S NO REASON TO SUBJECT IT TO HIGH POWERED EXPLOSIVES...
BOOM!
...WHEN I CAN SHAKE THE DEVILMENT OUT OF IT!
RUMMMBLE

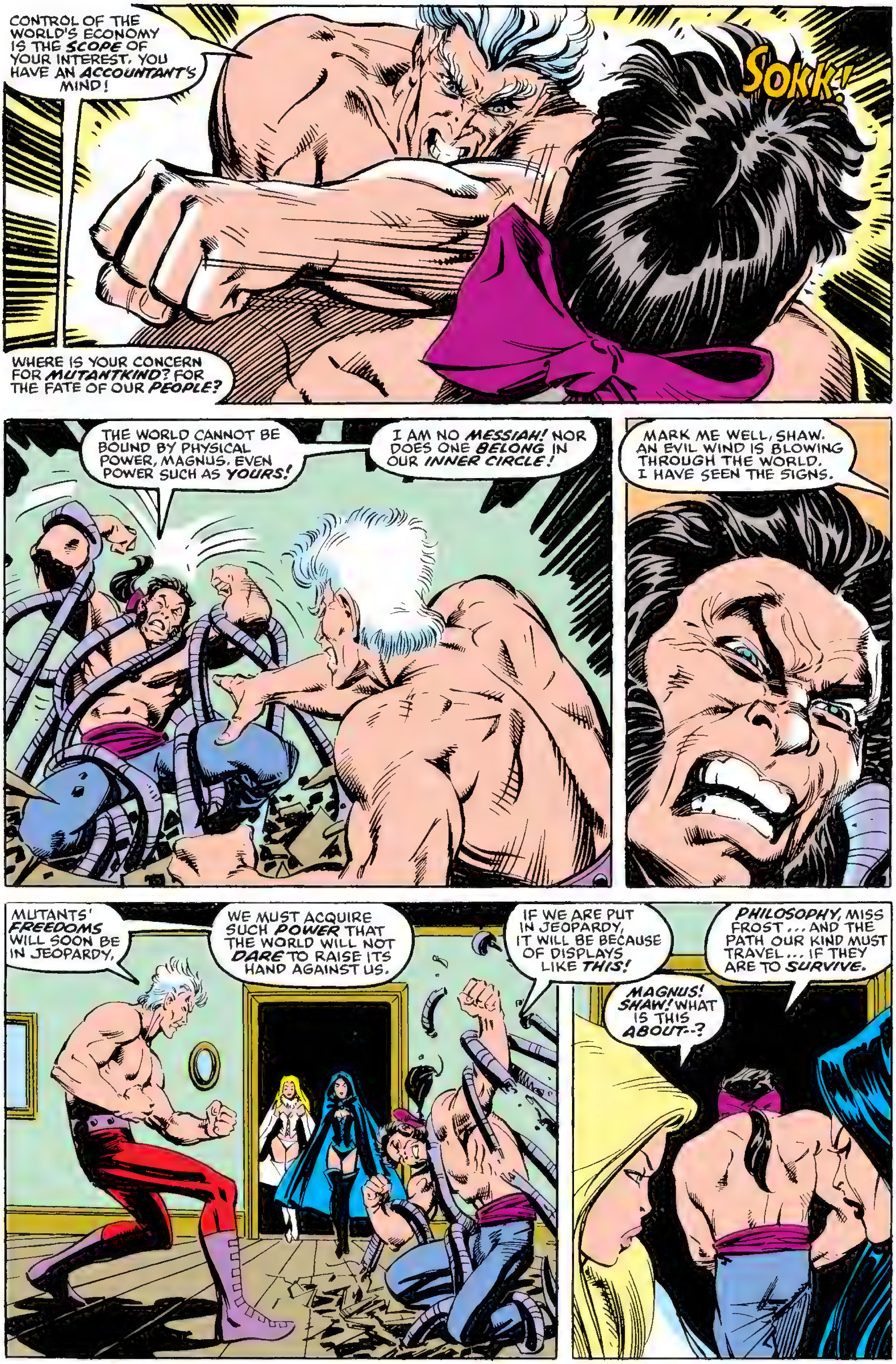

RATTLE
SEE?
THUNK!
THAT'S SO COOL! SO COOL, IN FACT, THAT YOU WIN THE DOOR PRIZE.
I THINK THE MIDDLE ONE NEEDS CHANGING.
NOW WE CAN HAVE SOME TUNES.
HELLO, SELFRIENDS AND BABIES.
HI, WARLOCK, GUYS. HOW'D THE MOP-UP GO?*
DANI, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!
I'M AFRAID SHE DOESN'T FEEL WELL, EITHER.
*FIND OUT IN POWER PACK #43 AND CLOAK AND DAGGER #4.-BOB

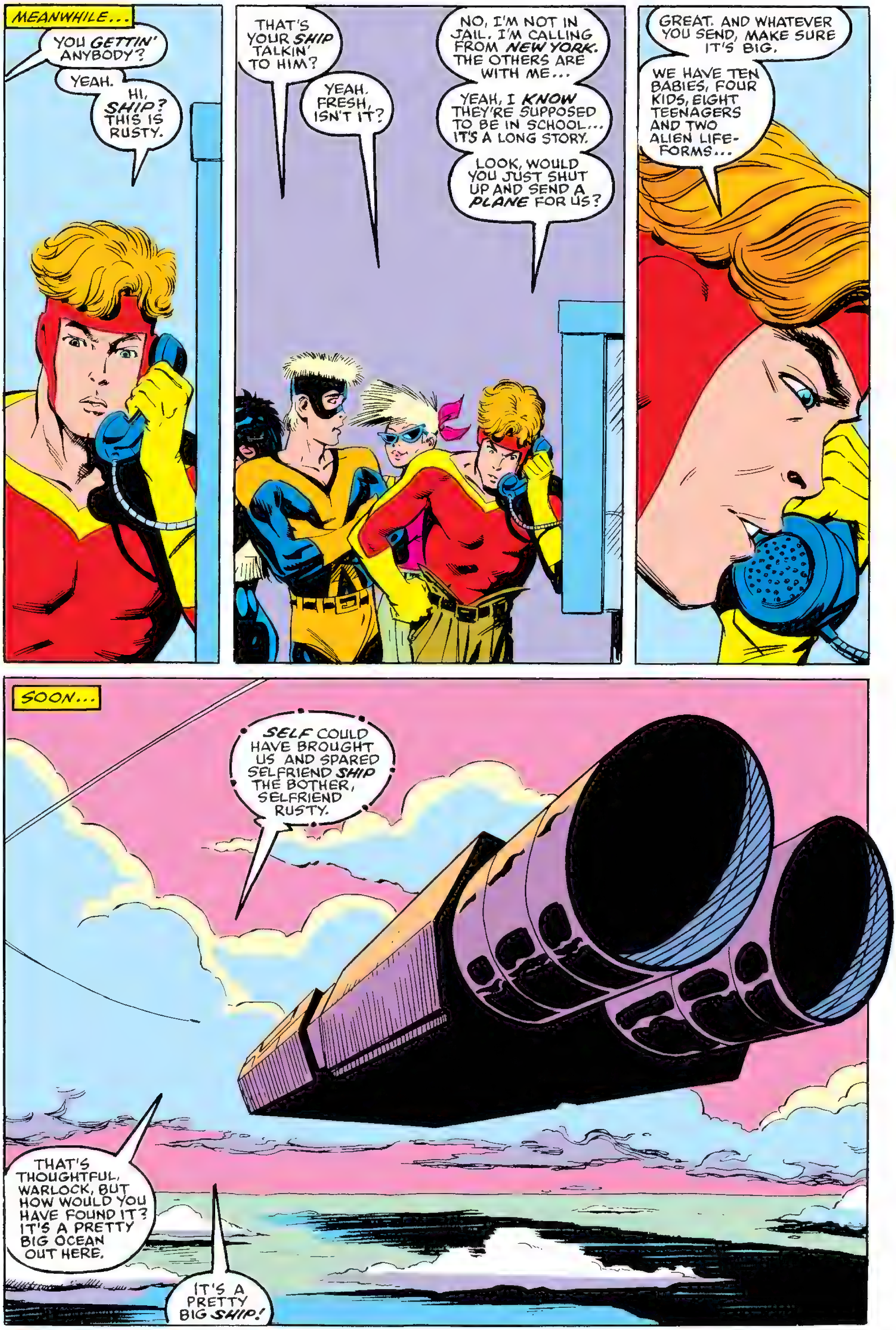

SHE'S BEEN PUTTING UP A BRAVE FRONT, BUT HER HEADACHE IS WORSE THAN EVER.
GOSAMYR'S EXAGGERATING. IT'S JUST THAT I THOUGHT ONCE THE *DEMON REIGN* WAS OVER I'D FEEL BETTER BUT--
SKIDS, SAM, RUSTY... *HELP!* WHO KNOWS *ANYTHING* ABOUT BABIES?
AH GOT LITTLE BROTHERS AN' SISTERS...
GOOD. THAT EXPERIENCE SHOULD PUT YOU IN GOOD STEAD. THE *MIDDLE* ONE NEEDS CHANGING.
GOSAMYR, YOU LOOK RAVISHING THIS MORNING.
I'LL SAY!
WHAT'S WITH *THEM*--?
SAM! OH, SAM, YOU'RE *BACK!*
'COURSE AH'M BACK, PUMPKIN! LOOKS LIKE *YOU* HAD A HARDER TIME THAN *WE* DID.
BUT YOU CAN FORGET GIVIN' ME *THAT* L'IL STINKER. I GOT A COUPLE HERE OF MY *OWN!*
AND NOW THE *NEWS AT SEVEN.*
"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER... OR MAYBE TO TRY AND FORGET."
THAT'S HOW ONE OBSERVER DESCRIBED RIOTING AND MASS HALLUCINATIONS... DUBBED *GOBLIN NIGHT*... THAT GRIPPED MANHATTAN...
...LEADING SOME SPECULATORS TO WONDER IF IT HAD ANY CONNECTION TO THE MUCH PUBLICIZED DISAPPEARANCE...


...OF ROCK STAR *LILA CHENEY,* IN WHICH SHE APPEARED TO BE CARRIED OFF BY AN *ALIEN HORDE.*
THOUGH CHENEY'S CONCERTS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR SPECTACULAR EFFECTS, *CHENEY* HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE--
BOOM-BOOM MAYBE YOU COULD SWITCH TO SOME *OTHER* STATION?
BUT... *WHY?* WHAT'S WRONG?
LILA WAS SAM'S *GIRLFRIEND.* SHE'S REALLY A MUTANT, LIKE US, WHO COULD TELEPORT ACROSS VAST DISTANCES.
WHAT?!?
WE RUSHED TO HER AID WHEN WE HEARD SHE WAS IN DANGER.
MAGNETO, OUR HEADMASTER, WOULD HAVE TRIED TO STOP US-- BUT WE NEVER LISTEN TO HIM MUCH ANYMORE.
WE RAN INTO GOSAMYR AND LEARNED THAT *HER* FAMILY HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAME VILLAIN... A CREEP NAMED *SPYDER.*
SO WE WENT OFF INTO SPACE TO RESCUE THEM ALL.
HEY, DIG IT. ARTIE'S PROJECTING THE *VISUALS.*
BEFORE WE COULD REACH THEM, *SPYDER* RELEASED HER FAMILY IN MONSTROUS EVOLVED FORMS. THEY WERE ABOUT TO DESTROY A PLANET.
...BUT WHEN WE FREED *LILA,* SHE SAVED US BY TELEPORTING THE *MONSTERS* INTO THE *SUN.*
UNFORTUNATELY, THE WAY HER POWER WORKS, SHE HAD TO TELEPORT *WITH* THEM.
LILA *DIED* SO THAT MY FAMILY WOULD NOT BE LOOSENED ON AN UNSUSPECTING UNIVERSE.
IF YOUR FAMILY WAS ANYTHING LIKE YOU...
...THEY'D BE *WORTH DYING FOR.*

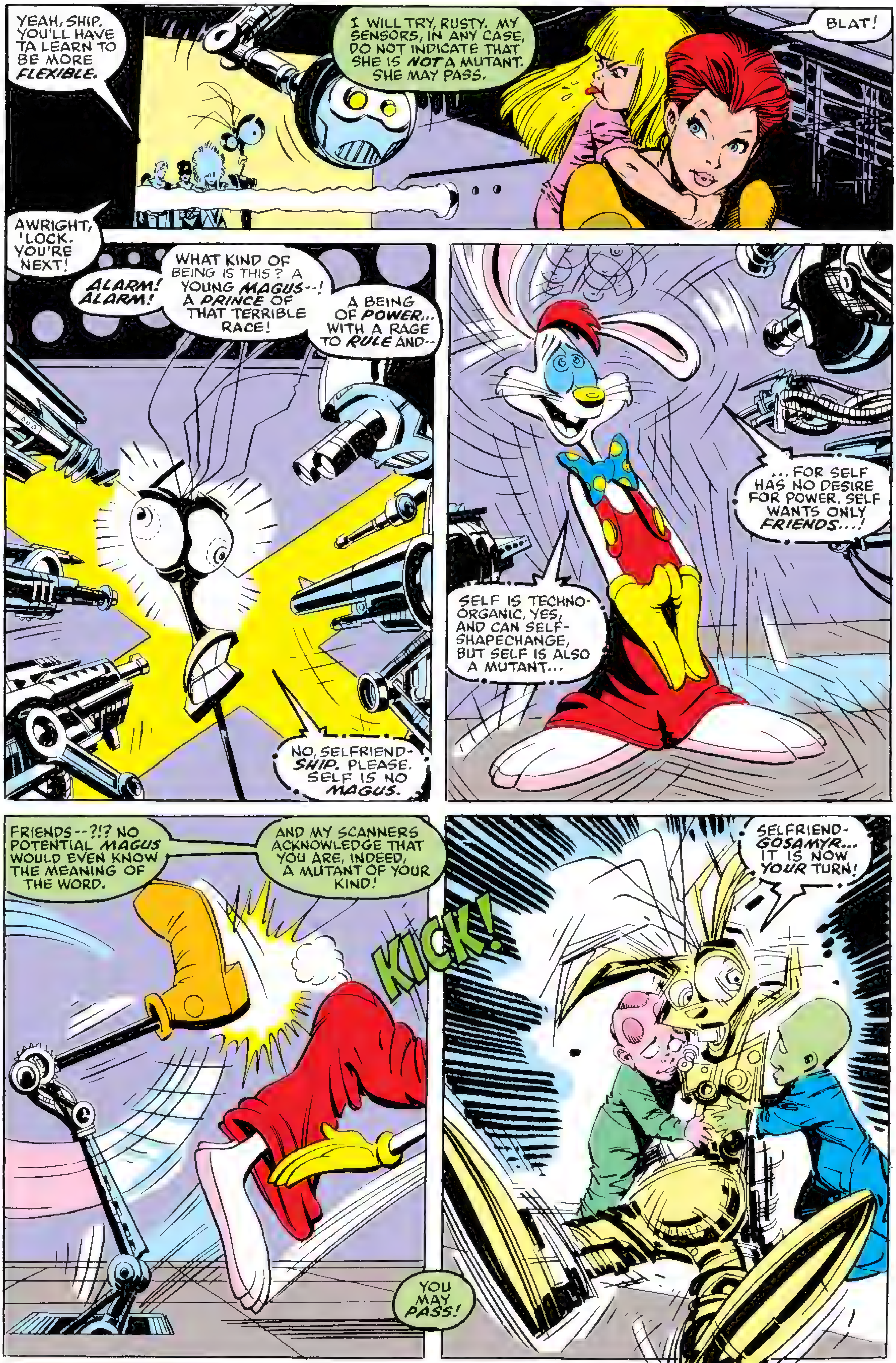

BUT... WHAT MAKES US SO SURE THAT LILA'S *DEAD?*
CAN'T SHE ONLY TELEPORT TO PLACES THAT SHE'S *BEEN?*
HAS SHE EVER *BEEN* TO THAT SUN?
IF SHE *HAS*, THEN SHE MUST HAVE HAD SOME WAY TO *SURVIVE* THERE...
...AND IF SHE HASN'T, SHE MUST HAVE TAKEN THEM SOMEWHERE *ELSE* WHERE SHE *COULD* SURVIVE! DON'T YOU SEE--?
HEY, YEAH... RAHNE... YOU'RE *RIGHT!*
MAYBE SOME DAY SHE *WILL* COME HOME. SHE HAS THE *POWER*...
IF ONLY SHE'S *ALIVE*. IF ONLY WE COULD KNOW FOR SURE.
THIS IS ALL *MY* FAULT, YOU KNOW. I'M LIKE MY FAMILY.
EVEN AT MY *BEST*, I HAVE AN...EVIL EFFECT ON OTHER BEINGS... LIKE A FLOWER WHOSE FRAGRANCE IS POISON TO BREATHE.
UNDER THE WRONG CONDITIONS, I COULD, MYSELF, BECOME ONE OF THOSE PLANET DESTROYERS.
I'M LIKE ILLYANA... AN *ACCIDENT* WAITING TO HAPPEN.
YOU'RE *NOT*. YOU *WANT* TO BE AS GOOD AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.
AND YOU'VE LEARNED THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO BEHAVE THAN THE WAYS YOU WERE TAUGHT.
I *KNOW* THAT INTELLECTUALLY. BUT CAN I BECOME SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT I AM?
IF ONLY I KNEW FOR *SURE*...


THE HELLFIRE CLUB ON MANHATTAN'S FIFTH AVENUE...
I BLAME YOU, MAGNUS, FOR ILLYANA'S LOSS OF CONTROL.
SHE WAS YOUR STUDENT, AND YET YOU ALLOWED HER TO CAUSE THIS... GOBLIN NIGHT!
ITS PROPERTY DAMAGE, HAD IT CONTINUED, COULD HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED OUR MEMBERS' FINANCIAL HOLDINGS AND--
THE WORLD'S SECURITY HAS BEEN THREATENED ...AND YOUR NARROW CONCERN IS FOR OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS?
YOU ARE ANGERED, NOT AT THE DAMAGE TO THIS CITY... BUT ONLY THAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB DIDN'T KNOW IN TIME TO PROFIT FROM IT.
SPARE ME YOUR HYPOCRISY! YOU CARE NOTHING FOR THIS CITY! YOUR CONSTITUENCY IS MUTANTKIND...
WHAK!
...AND THE NUMBER OF MUTANTS THAT YOU REPRESENT HAS DWINDLED!
WE OF THE INNER CIRCLE HAVE CHOSEN TO SHARE WITH YOU OUR POSITION OF POWER!
WE HAVE MADE YOU OUR WHITE KING... BUT WE CAN UNMAKE YOU AS EASILY!
CAN YOU, SHAW?

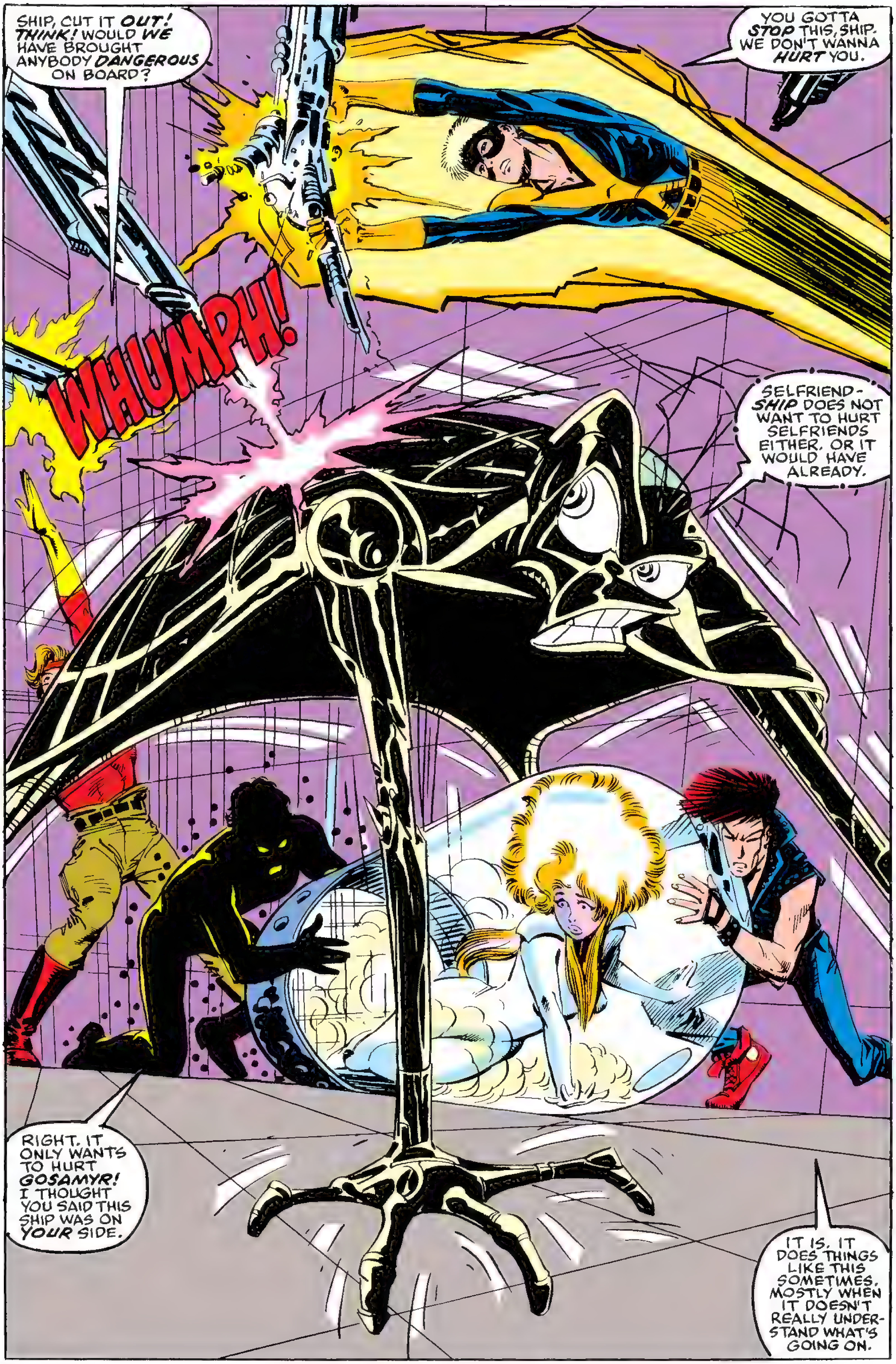

CONTROL OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY IS THE *SCOPE* OF YOUR INTEREST. YOU HAVE AN *ACCOUNTANT'S* MIND!
SOKK!
WHERE IS YOUR CONCERN FOR *MUTANTKIND*? FOR THE FATE OF OUR *PEOPLE?*
THE WORLD CANNOT BE BOUND BY PHYSICAL POWER, MAGNUS. EVEN POWER SUCH AS *YOURS!*
I AM NO *MESSIAH!* NOR DOES ONE *BELONG* IN OUR *INNER CIRCLE!*
MARK ME WELL, SHAW. AN EVIL WIND IS BLOWING THROUGH THE WORLD. I HAVE SEEN THE SIGNS.
MUTANTS' *FREEDOMS* WILL SOON BE IN JEOPARDY,
WE MUST ACQUIRE SUCH *POWER* THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT *DARE* TO RAISE ITS HAND AGAINST US.
IF WE ARE PUT IN JEOPARDY, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OF DISPLAYS LIKE *THIS!*
PHILOSOPHY, MISS FROST... AND THE PATH OUR KIND MUST TRAVEL... IF THEY ARE TO *SURVIVE.*
MAGNUS! SHAW! WHAT IS THIS *ABOUT--?*

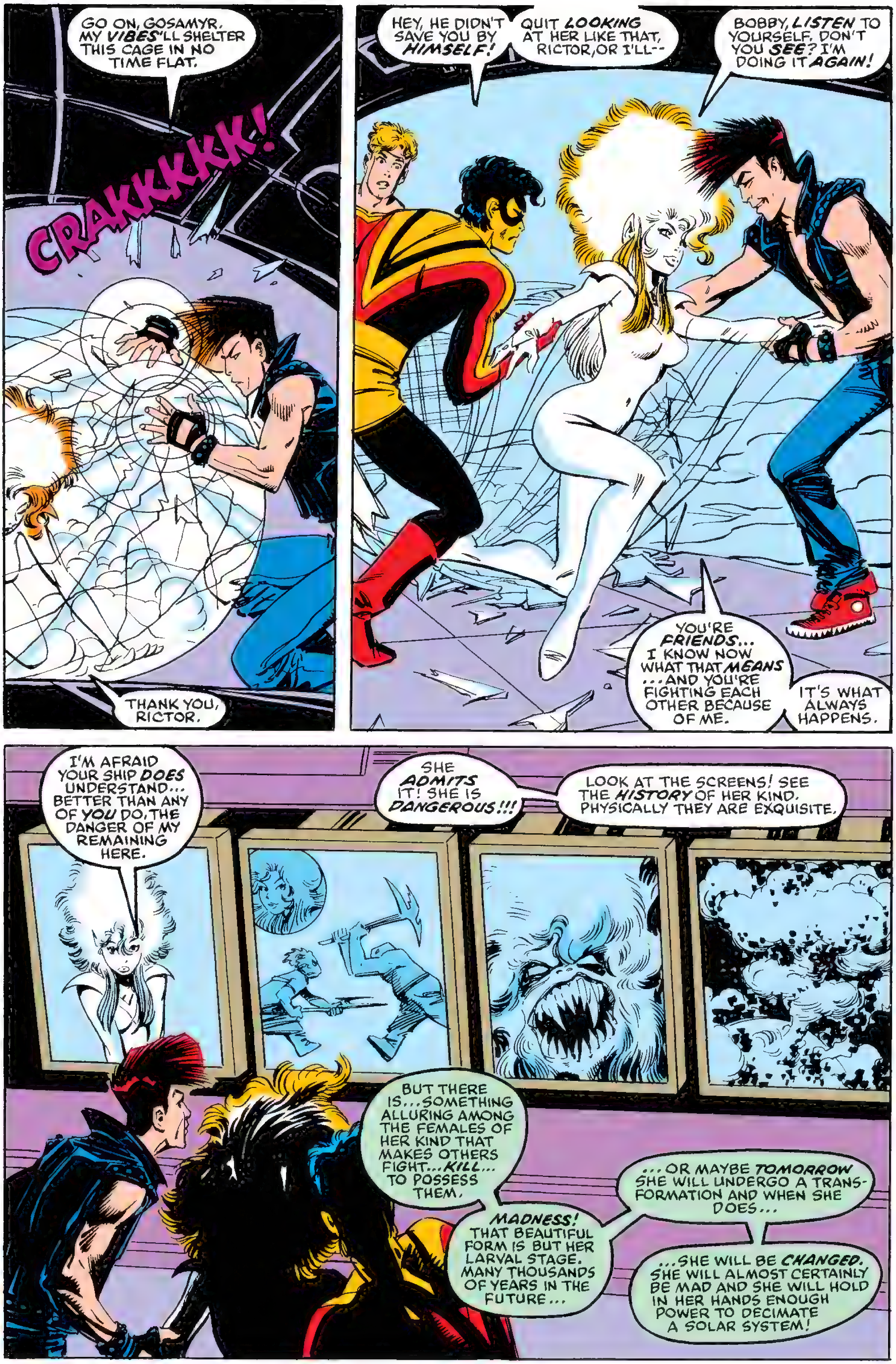

MEANWHILE...
YOU GETTIN' ANYBODY?
YEAH.
HI, SHIP? THIS IS RUSTY.
THAT'S YOUR SHIP TALKIN' TO HIM?
YEAH. FRESH, ISN'T IT?
NO, I'M NOT IN JAIL. I'M CALLING FROM NEW YORK. THE OTHERS ARE WITH ME...
YEAH, I KNOW THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL... IT'S A LONG STORY.
LOOK, WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP AND SEND A PLANE FOR US?
GREAT. AND WHATEVER YOU SEND, MAKE SURE IT'S BIG.
WE HAVE TEN BABIES, FOUR KIDS, EIGHT TEENAGERS AND TWO ALIEN LIFE-FORMS...
SOON...
SELF COULD HAVE BROUGHT US AND SPARED SELFRIEND SHIP THE BOTHER, SELFRIEND RUSTY.
THAT'S THOUGHTFUL, WARLOCK, BUT HOW WOULD YOU HAVE FOUND IT? IT'S A PRETTY BIG OCEAN OUT HERE.
IT'S A PRETTY BIG SHIP!

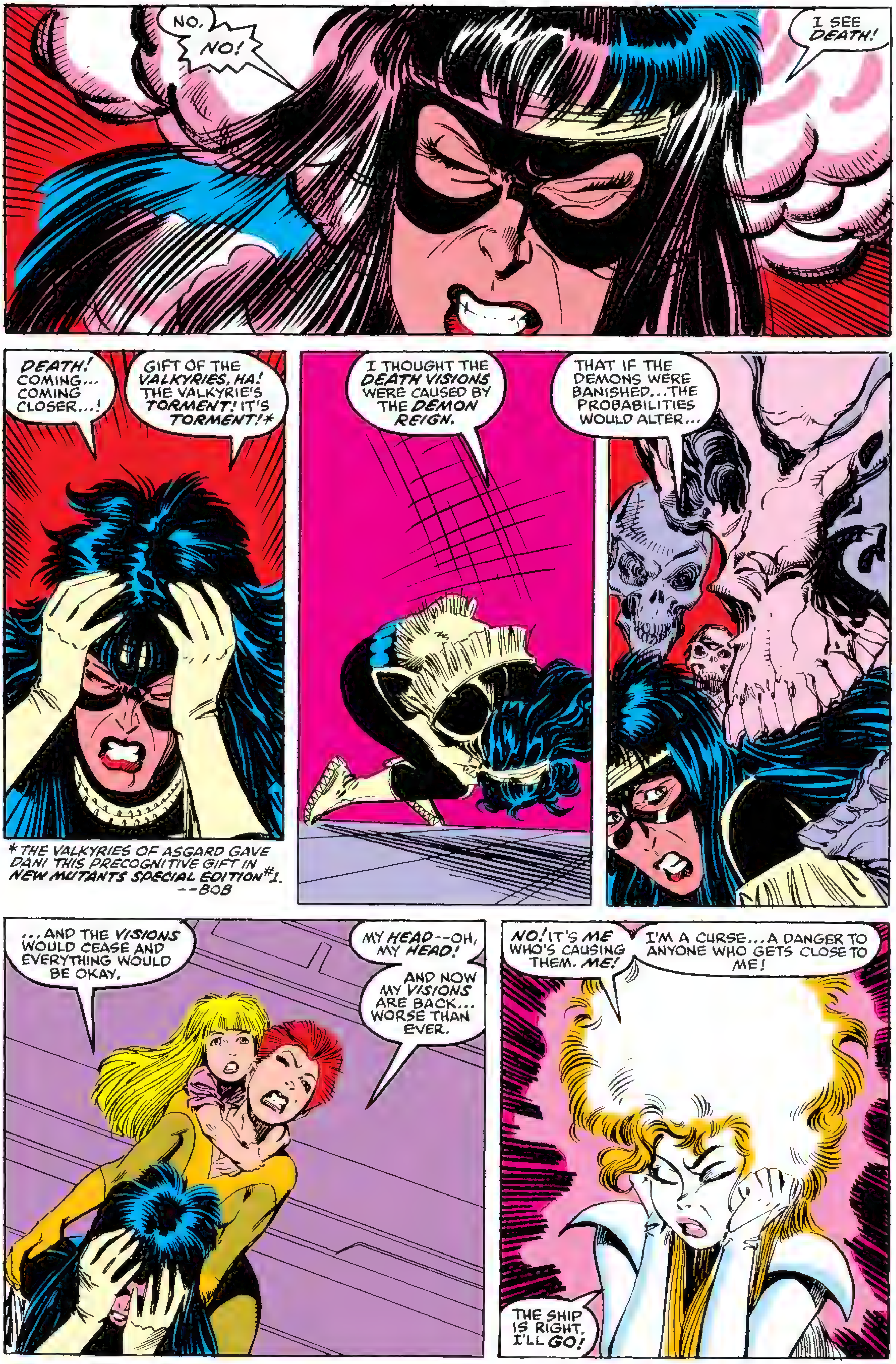
NO KIDDIN' BOBBY! I MEAN-- *WOW!*
WE SAW IT ON *TV,* OF COURSE, BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN *BEGIN* TO SHOW HOW BIG IT IS.
IT'S *AWESOME.*
HEY, SHIP, GOOD TA SEE YOU!
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AS WELL, BOOM-BOOM. BUT WHO--?
THESE GUYS ARE THE *NEW MUTANTS.* THEY HELPED US SAVE NEW YORK.
THINK MAYBE YOU CAN *COUGH-UP* A WHEELCHAIR FOR *TAKI?*
IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE. BUT, BOOM-BOOM... BECAUSE OF MY *PROGRAMMING,* I CAN ONLY ALLOW *MUTANTS* INSIDE.
DON'T SWEAT IT. SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM...
THE BABIES ARE MUTANTS... THAT'S WHY THE DEMONS WANTED THEM...
AND WE *NEW MUTANTS* ARE MUTANTS AND--
ZIP!
THERE IS SOMETHING... STRANGE... ABOUT THE SMALL ONE...!
SNAP!
ZOOM!
P'RAPS 'TIS JUST THAT ILLYANA'S A *BABY,* NOW. SHE'S CHANGED...

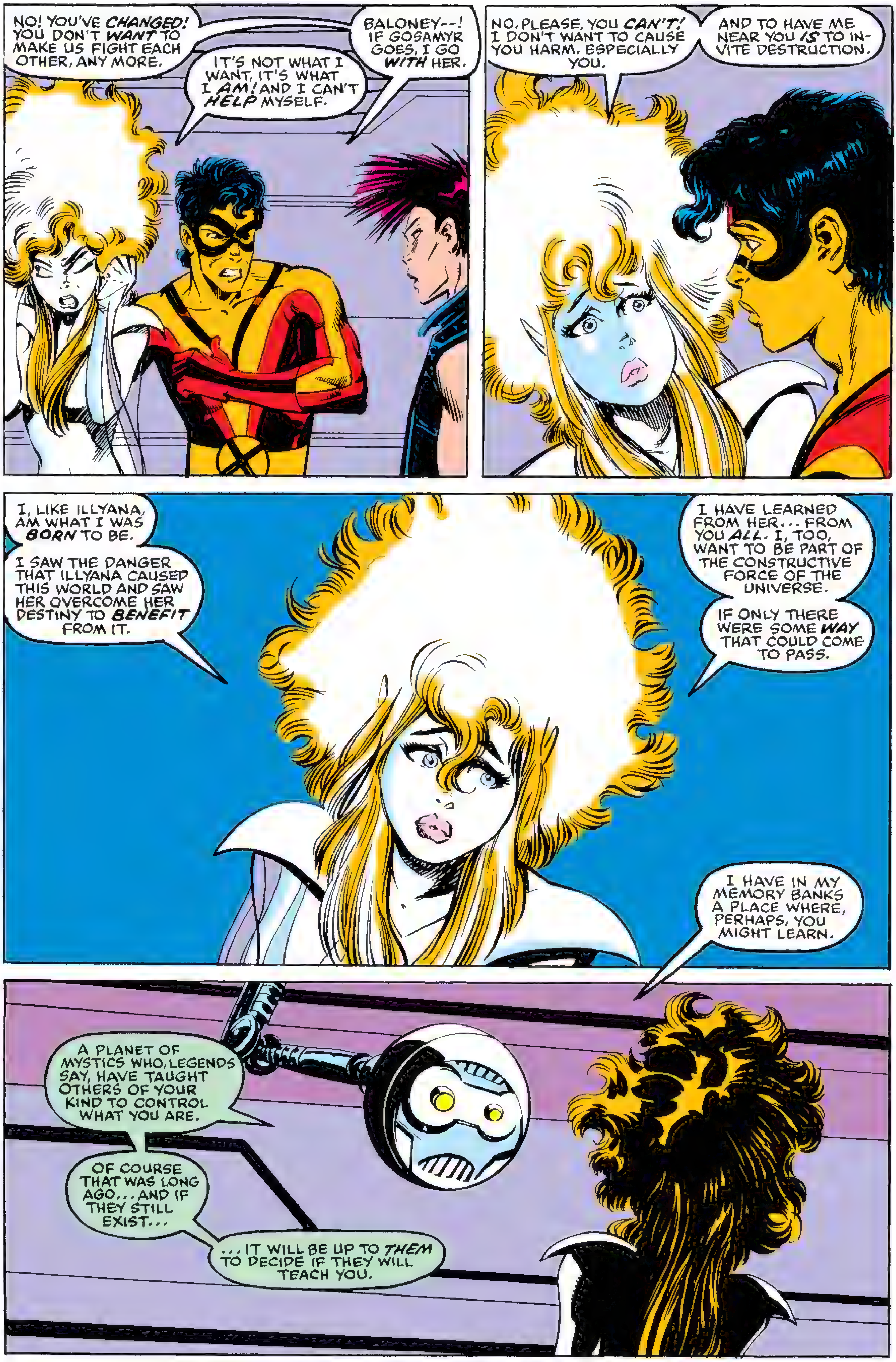

YEAH, SHIP. YOU'LL HAVE TA LEARN TO BE MORE *FLEXIBLE.*
I WILL TRY, RUSTY. MY SENSORS, IN ANY CASE, DO NOT INDICATE THAT SHE IS *NOT* A MUTANT. SHE MAY PASS.
BLAT!
AWRIGHT, 'LOCK. YOU'RE NEXT!
ALARM! ALARM!
WHAT KIND OF BEING IS THIS? A YOUNG *MAGUS*--! A *PRINCE* OF THAT TERRIBLE RACE!
A BEING OF *POWER*... WITH A RAGE TO *RULE* AND--
NO, SELFRIEND-*SHIP*. PLEASE. SELF IS NO *MAGUS*.
SELF IS TECHNO-ORGANIC, YES, AND CAN SELF-SHAPECHANGE, BUT SELF IS ALSO A MUTANT...
...FOR SELF HAS NO DESIRE FOR POWER. SELF WANTS ONLY *FRIENDS*...!
FRIENDS--?!? NO POTENTIAL *MAGUS* WOULD EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD.
AND MY SCANNERS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE, INDEED, A MUTANT OF YOUR KIND!
KICK!
YOU MAY *PASS!*
SELFRIEND-*GOSAMYR*... IT IS NOW *YOUR* TURN!

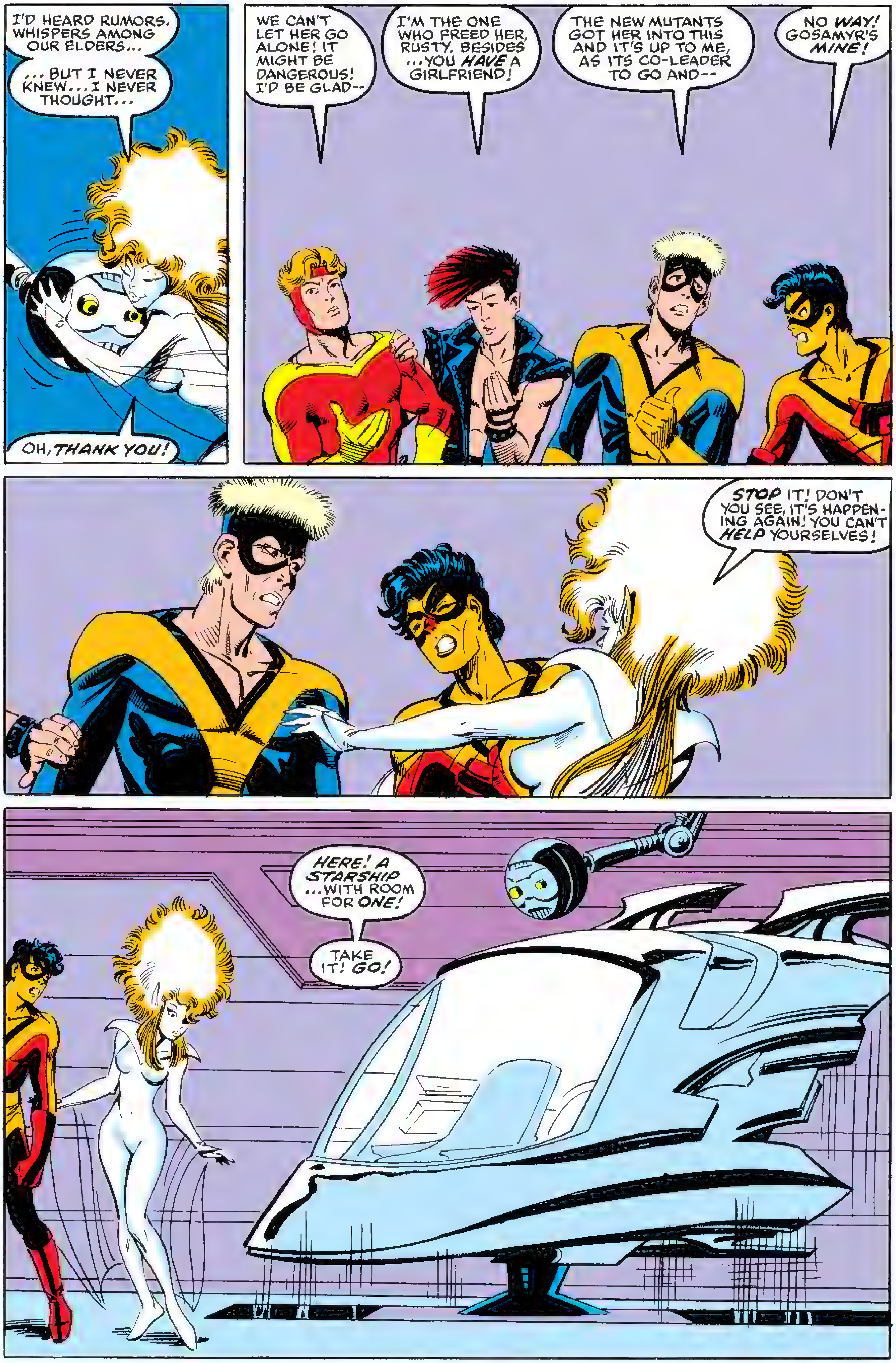
NO!
NO!
SHE IS NO MUTANT!
SHE IS MORE DANGEROUS, EVEN THAN A MAGUS!
SHE MUST BE CAPTURED! SHE MUST BE CONTAINED!
CLANGG!
WHAT--?!?
SHE MUST BE DESTROYED!
WHUMPH!
SHIP! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
LET HER GO!
DON'T WORRY, GOSAMYR! I'VE GOT YOU! I WON'T LET IT HURT YOU!
CANNONBALL! WARLOCK! GET OUT HERE AND HELP!

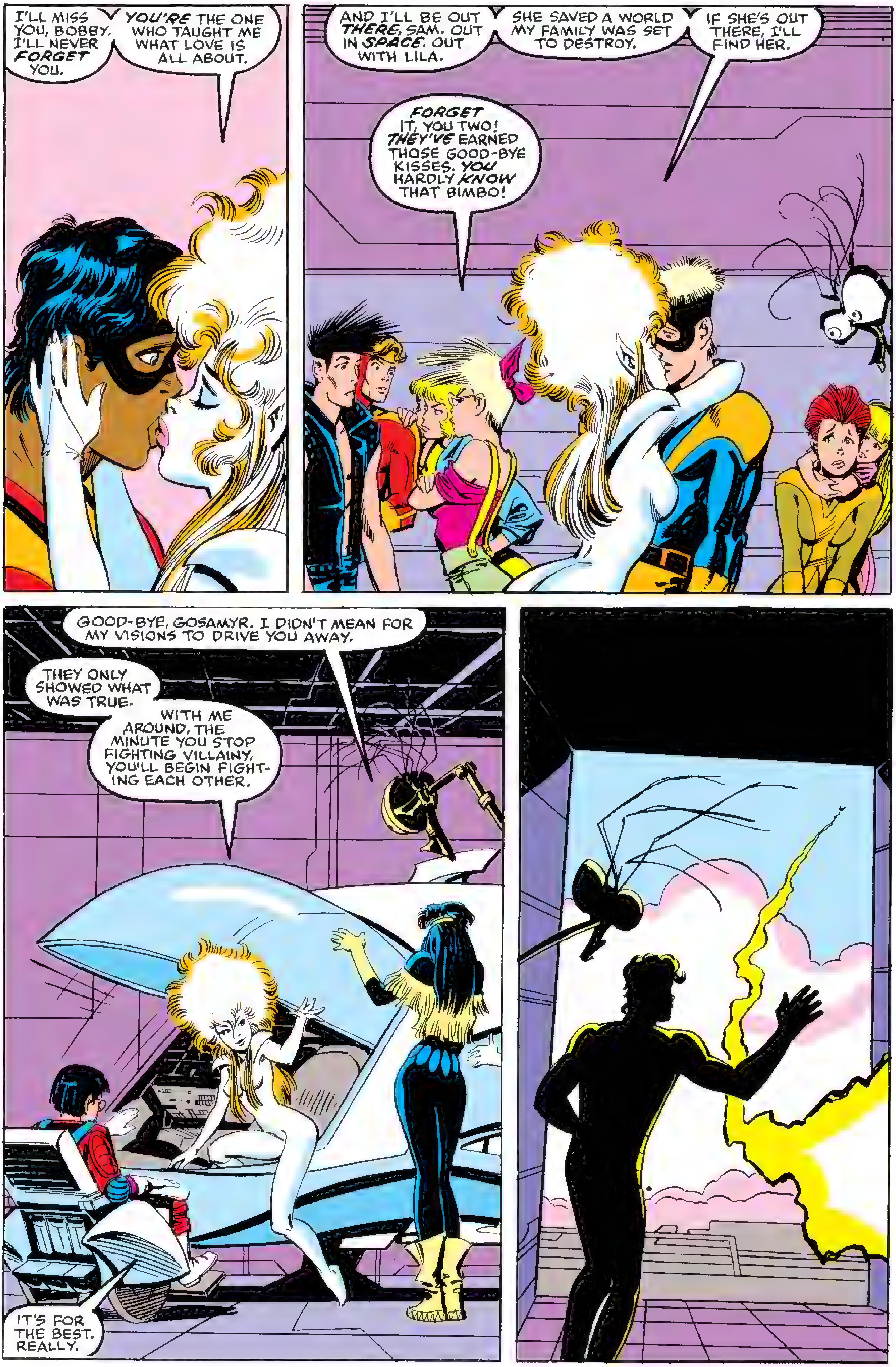

SHIP, CUT IT **OUT!** **THINK!** WOULD **WE** HAVE BROUGHT ANYBODY **DANGEROUS** ON BOARD?
YOU GOTTA **STOP** THIS, SHIP. WE DON'T WANNA **HURT** YOU.
WHUMPH!
SELFRIEND-**SHIP** DOES NOT WANT TO HURT SELFRIENDS EITHER, OR IT WOULD HAVE ALREADY.
RIGHT. IT ONLY WANTS TO HURT **GOSAMYR!** I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS SHIP WAS ON **YOUR** SIDE.
IT IS. IT DOES THINGS LIKE THIS SOMETIMES. MOSTLY WHEN IT DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON.

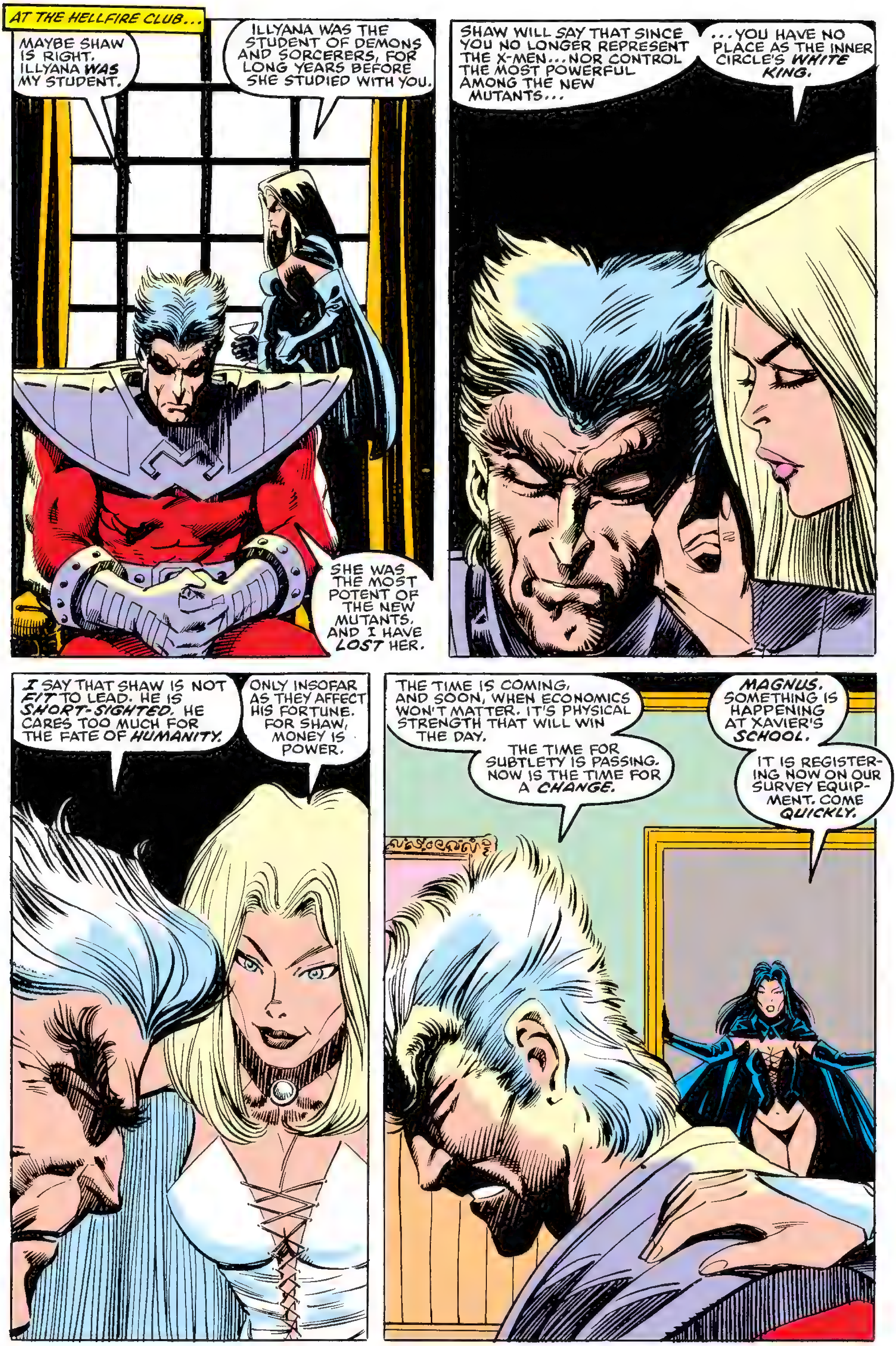

GO ON, GOSAMYR. MY *VIBES*'LL SHELTER THIS CAGE IN NO TIME FLAT.
CRAKKKKK!
THANK YOU, RICTOR.
HEY, HE DIDN'T SAVE YOU BY *HIMSELF!*
QUIT *LOOKING* AT HER LIKE THAT, RICTOR, OR I'LL--
BOBBY, *LISTEN* TO YOURSELF. DON'T YOU *SEE*? I'M DOING IT *AGAIN!*
YOU'RE *FRIENDS*... I KNOW NOW WHAT THAT *MEANS* ...AND YOU'RE FIGHTING EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF ME.
IT'S WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS.
I'M AFRAID YOUR SHIP *DOES* UNDERSTAND... BETTER THAN ANY OF *YOU* DO, THE DANGER OF MY REMAINING HERE.
SHE *ADMITS* IT! SHE IS *DANGEROUS!!!*
LOOK AT THE SCREENS! SEE THE *HISTORY* OF HER KIND. PHYSICALLY THEY ARE EXQUISITE.
BUT THERE IS... SOMETHING ALLURING AMONG THE FEMALES OF HER KIND THAT MAKES OTHERS FIGHT... *KILL*... TO POSSESS THEM.
MADNESS! THAT BEAUTIFUL FORM IS BUT HER LARVAL STAGE. MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE...
...OR MAYBE *TOMORROW* SHE WILL UNDERGO A TRANSFORMATION AND WHEN SHE DOES...
...SHE WILL BE *CHANGED.* SHE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE MAD AND SHE WILL HOLD IN HER HANDS ENOUGH POWER TO DECIMATE A SOLAR SYSTEM!

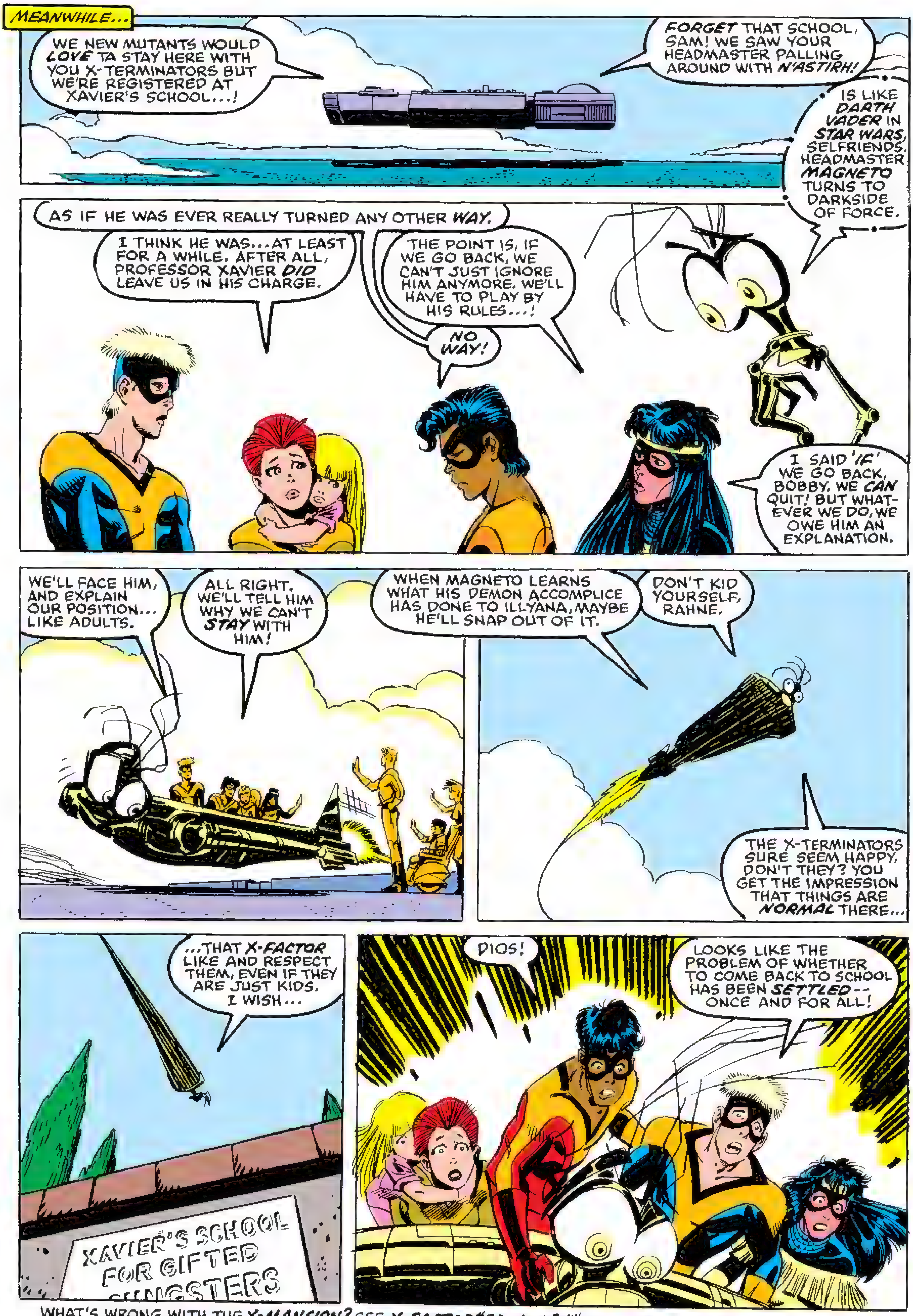

NO. NO!
I SEE DEATH!
DEATH! COMING... COMING CLOSER...!
GIFT OF THE VALKYRIES, HA! THE VALKYRIE'S TORMENT! IT'S TORMENT!*
*THE VALKYRIES OF ASGARD GAVE DANI THIS PRECOGNITIVE GIFT IN NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1. --BOB
I THOUGHT THE DEATH VISIONS WERE CAUSED BY THE DEMON REIGN.
THAT IF THE DEMONS WERE BANISHED...THE PROBABILITIES WOULD ALTER...
...AND THE VISIONS WOULD CEASE AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY.
MY HEAD--OH, MY HEAD!
AND NOW MY VISIONS ARE BACK... WORSE THAN EVER.
NO! IT'S ME WHO'S CAUSING THEM. ME!
I'M A CURSE... A DANGER TO ANYONE WHO GETS CLOSE TO ME!
THE SHIP IS RIGHT. I'LL GO!


NO! YOU'VE CHANGED! YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE US FIGHT EACH OTHER, ANY MORE.
IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT, IT'S WHAT I AM! AND I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
BALONEY--! IF GOSAMYR GOES, I GO WITH HER.
NO. PLEASE, YOU CAN'T! I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU HARM. ESPECIALLY YOU.
AND TO HAVE ME NEAR YOU IS TO INVITE DESTRUCTION.
I, LIKE ILLYANA, AM WHAT I WAS BORN TO BE.
I SAW THE DANGER THAT ILLYANA CAUSED THIS WORLD AND SAW HER OVERCOME HER DESTINY TO BENEFIT FROM IT.
I HAVE LEARNED FROM HER... FROM YOU ALL. I, TOO, WANT TO BE PART OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE.
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY THAT COULD COME TO PASS.
I HAVE IN MY MEMORY BANKS A PLACE WHERE, PERHAPS, YOU MIGHT LEARN.
A PLANET OF MYSTICS WHO, LEGENDS SAY, HAVE TAUGHT OTHERS OF YOUR KIND TO CONTROL WHAT YOU ARE.
OF COURSE THAT WAS LONG AGO... AND IF THEY STILL EXIST...
...IT WILL BE UP TO THEM TO DECIDE IF THEY WILL TEACH YOU.


I'D HEARD RUMORS. WHISPERS AMONG OUR ELDERS...
...BUT I NEVER KNEW... I NEVER THOUGHT...
OH, *THANK YOU!*
WE CAN'T LET HER GO ALONE! IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS! I'D BE GLAD--
I'M THE ONE WHO FREED HER, RUSTY. BESIDES ...YOU *HAVE* A GIRLFRIEND!
THE NEW MUTANTS GOT HER INTO THIS AND IT'S UP TO ME, AS ITS CO-LEADER TO GO AND--
NO *WAY!* GOSAMYR'S *MINE!*
STOP IT! DON'T YOU SEE, IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! YOU CAN'T *HELP* YOURSELVES!
HERE! A STARSHIP ...WITH ROOM FOR *ONE!*
TAKE IT! *GO!*


I'LL MISS YOU, BOBBY. I'LL NEVER *FORGET* YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME WHAT LOVE IS ALL ABOUT.
AND I'LL BE OUT *THERE*, SAM. OUT IN *SPACE*. OUT WITH LILA.
SHE SAVED A WORLD MY FAMILY WAS SET TO DESTROY.
IF SHE'S OUT THERE, I'LL FIND HER.
FORGET IT, YOU TWO! *THEY'VE* EARNED THOSE GOOD-BYE KISSES. *YOU* HARDLY *KNOW* THAT BIMBO!
GOOD-BYE, GOSAMYR. I DIDN'T MEAN FOR MY VISIONS TO DRIVE YOU AWAY.
THEY ONLY SHOWED WHAT WAS TRUE.
WITH ME AROUND, THE MINUTE YOU STOP FIGHTING VILLAINY, YOU'LL BEGIN FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
IT'S FOR THE BEST. REALLY.


AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
MAYBE SHAW IS RIGHT. ILLYANA *WAS* MY STUDENT.
ILLYANA WAS THE STUDENT OF DEMONS AND SORCERERS, FOR LONG YEARS BEFORE SHE STUDIED WITH YOU.
SHE WAS THE MOST POTENT OF THE NEW MUTANTS, AND I HAVE *LOST* HER.
SHAW WILL *SAY* THAT SINCE YOU NO LONGER REPRESENT THE X-MEN...NOR CONTROL THE MOST POWERFUL AMONG THE NEW MUTANTS...
...YOU HAVE NO PLACE AS THE INNER CIRCLE'S *WHITE KING*.
I SAY THAT SHAW IS NOT *FIT* TO LEAD. HE IS *SHORT-SIGHTED*. HE CARES TOO MUCH FOR THE FATE OF *HUMANITY*.
ONLY INSOFAR AS THEY AFFECT HIS FORTUNE. FOR SHAW, MONEY IS POWER.
THE TIME IS COMING, AND SOON, WHEN ECONOMICS WON'T MATTER. IT'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH THAT WILL WIN THE DAY.
THE TIME FOR SUBTLETY IS PASSING. NOW IS THE TIME FOR A *CHANGE*.
MAGNUS, SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AT XAVIER'S *SCHOOL*.
IT IS REGISTERING NOW ON OUR SURVEY EQUIPMENT. COME *QUICKLY*.


MEANWHILE...
WE NEW MUTANTS WOULD LOVE TA STAY HERE WITH YOU X-TERMINATORS BUT WE'RE REGISTERED AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL...!
FORGET THAT SCHOOL, SAM! WE SAW YOUR HEADMASTER PALLING AROUND WITH N'ASTIRH!
IS LIKE DARTH VADER IN STAR WARS, SELFRIENDS. HEADMASTER MAGNETO TURNS TO DARKSIDE OF FORCE.
AS IF HE WAS EVER REALLY TURNED ANY OTHER WAY.
I THINK HE WAS... AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. AFTER ALL, PROFESSOR XAVIER DID LEAVE US IN HIS CHARGE.
THE POINT IS, IF WE GO BACK, WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE HIM ANYMORE. WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY BY HIS RULES...!
NO WAY!
I SAID 'IF' WE GO BACK, BOBBY. WE CAN QUIT! BUT WHATEVER WE DO, WE OWE HIM AN EXPLANATION.
WE'LL FACE HIM, AND EXPLAIN OUR POSITION... LIKE ADULTS.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL TELL HIM WHY WE CAN'T STAY WITH HIM!
WHEN MAGNETO LEARNS WHAT HIS DEMON ACCOMPLICE HAS DONE TO ILLYANA, MAYBE HE'LL SNAP OUT OF IT.
DON'T KID YOURSELF, RAHNE.
THE X-TERMINATORS SURE SEEM HAPPY, DON'T THEY? YOU GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THINGS ARE NORMAL THERE...
...THAT X-FACTOR LIKE AND RESPECT THEM, EVEN IF THEY ARE JUST KIDS. I WISH...
XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNGSTERS
DIOS!
LOOKS LIKE THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL HAS BEEN SETTLED -- ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE *X-MANSION*? SEE *X-FACTOR* #39, *X-MEN* #243, *EXCALIBUR* #9 AND BE BACK NEXT ISSUE WHEN THE

NEW MUTANTS CONFRONT MAGNETO.

NEW MUTANTS #75! WITH GUEST ARTIST JOHN BYRNE! YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!

MARVEL
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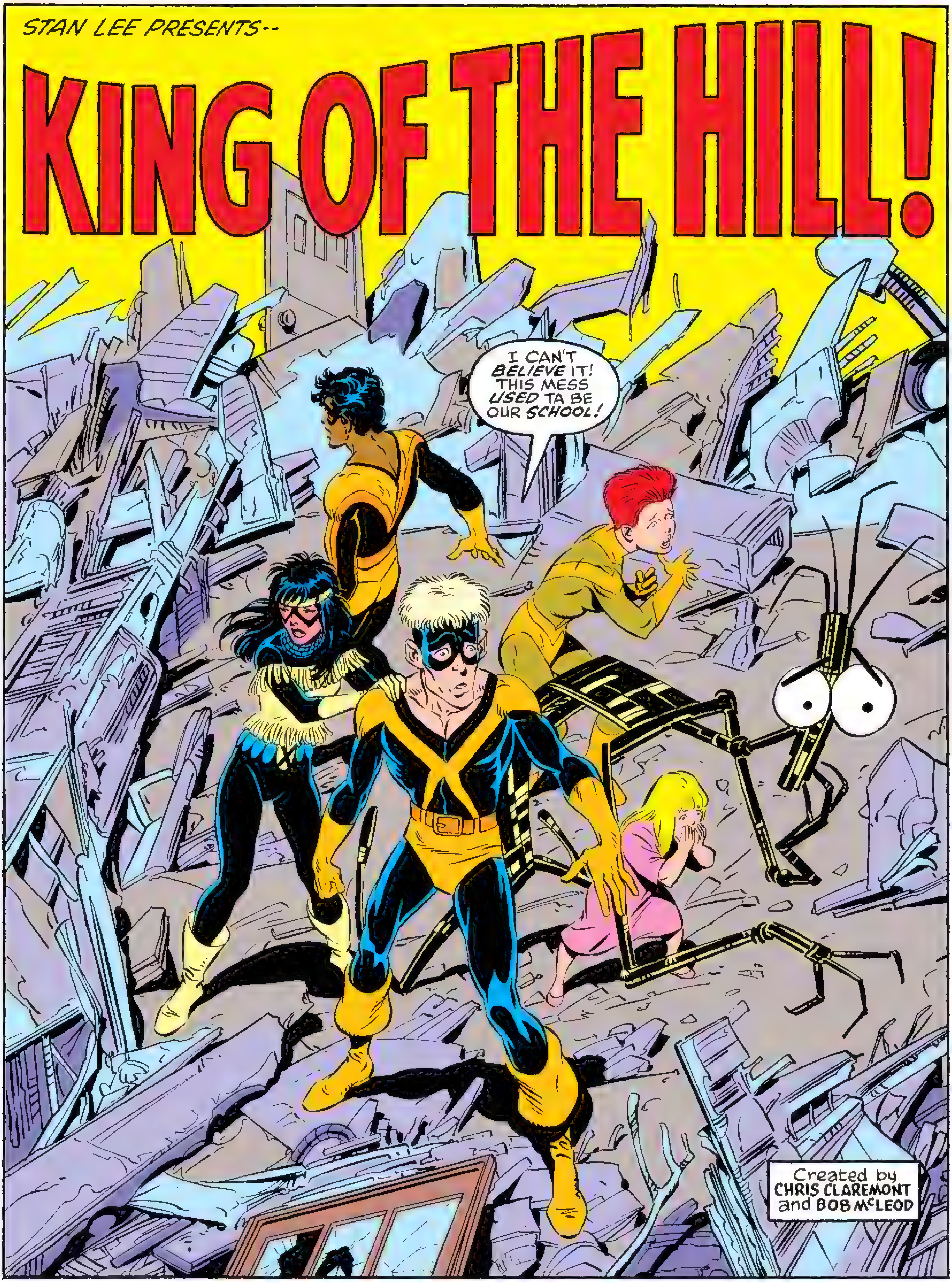
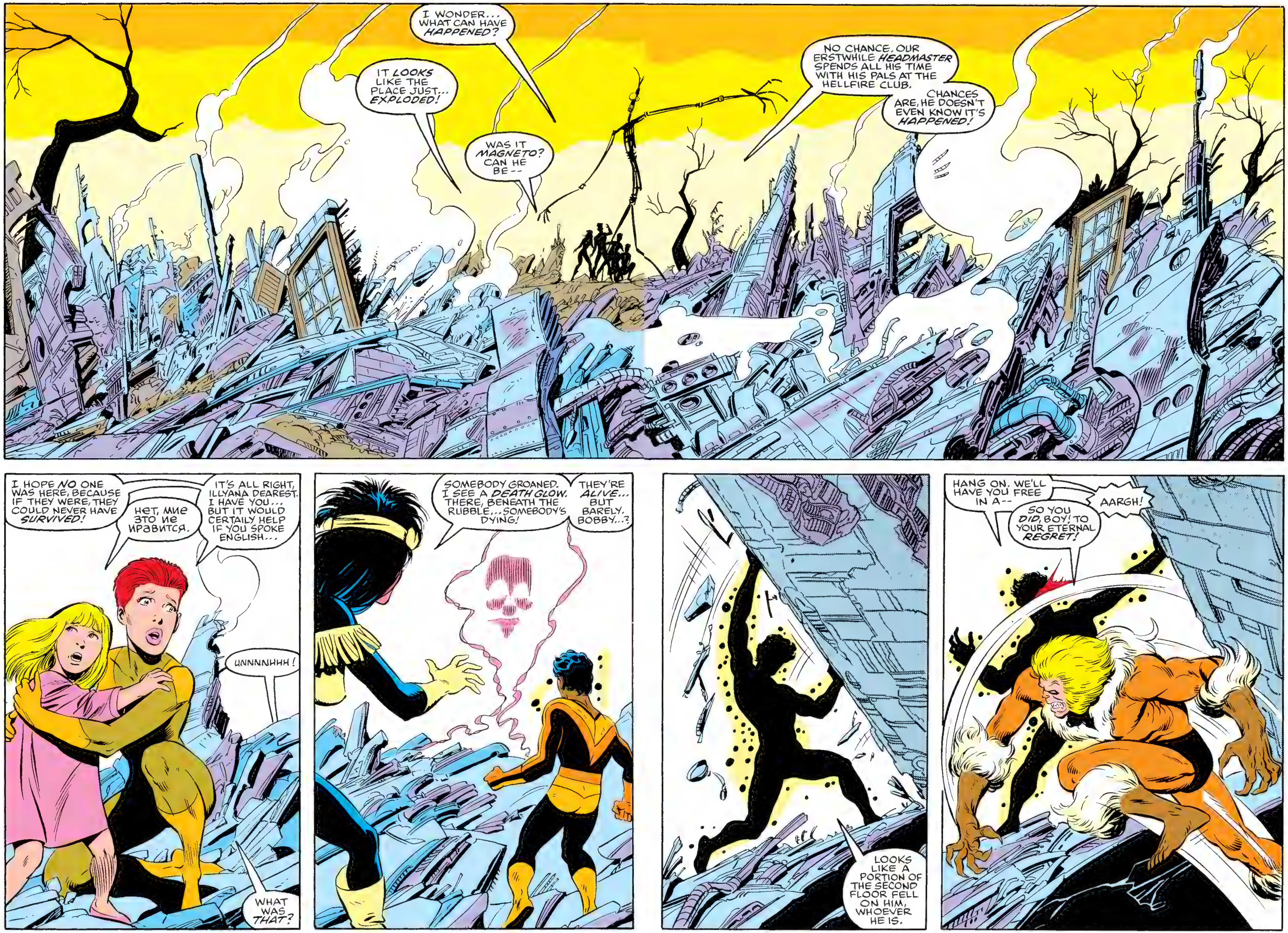
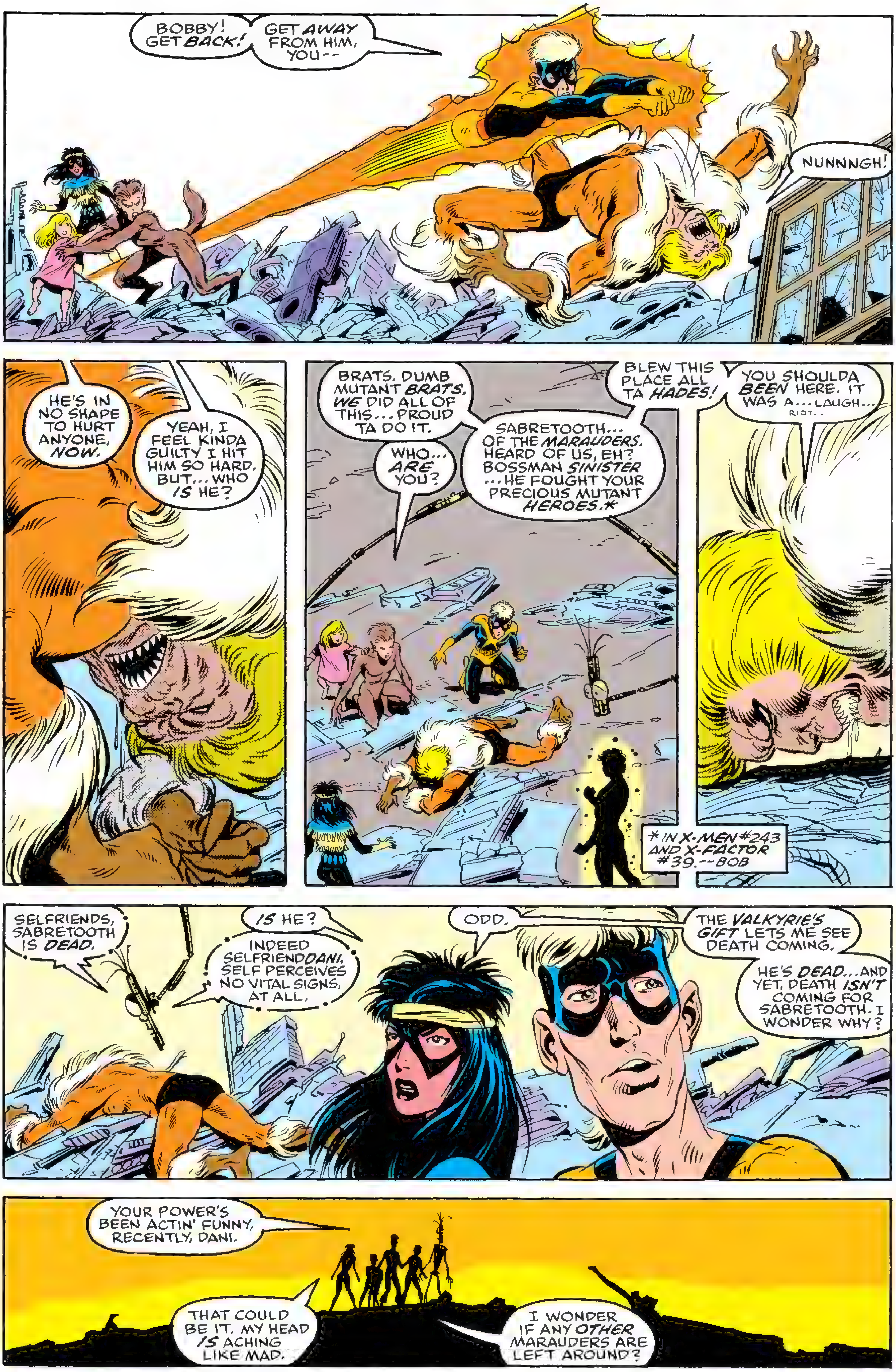
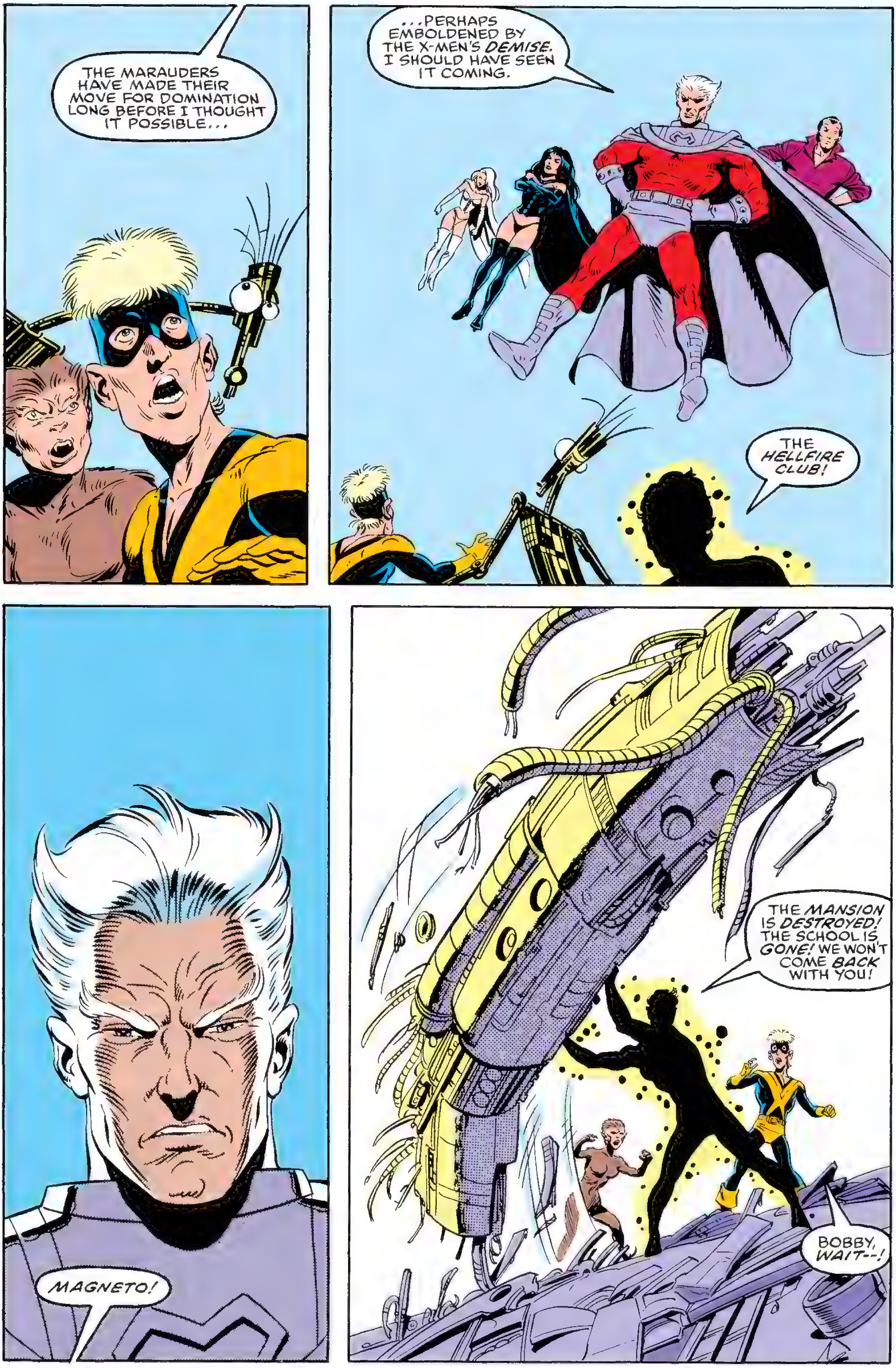
THE NEW
MUTANTS
MAGNETO BATTLES THE BLACK KING!
AND NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME!

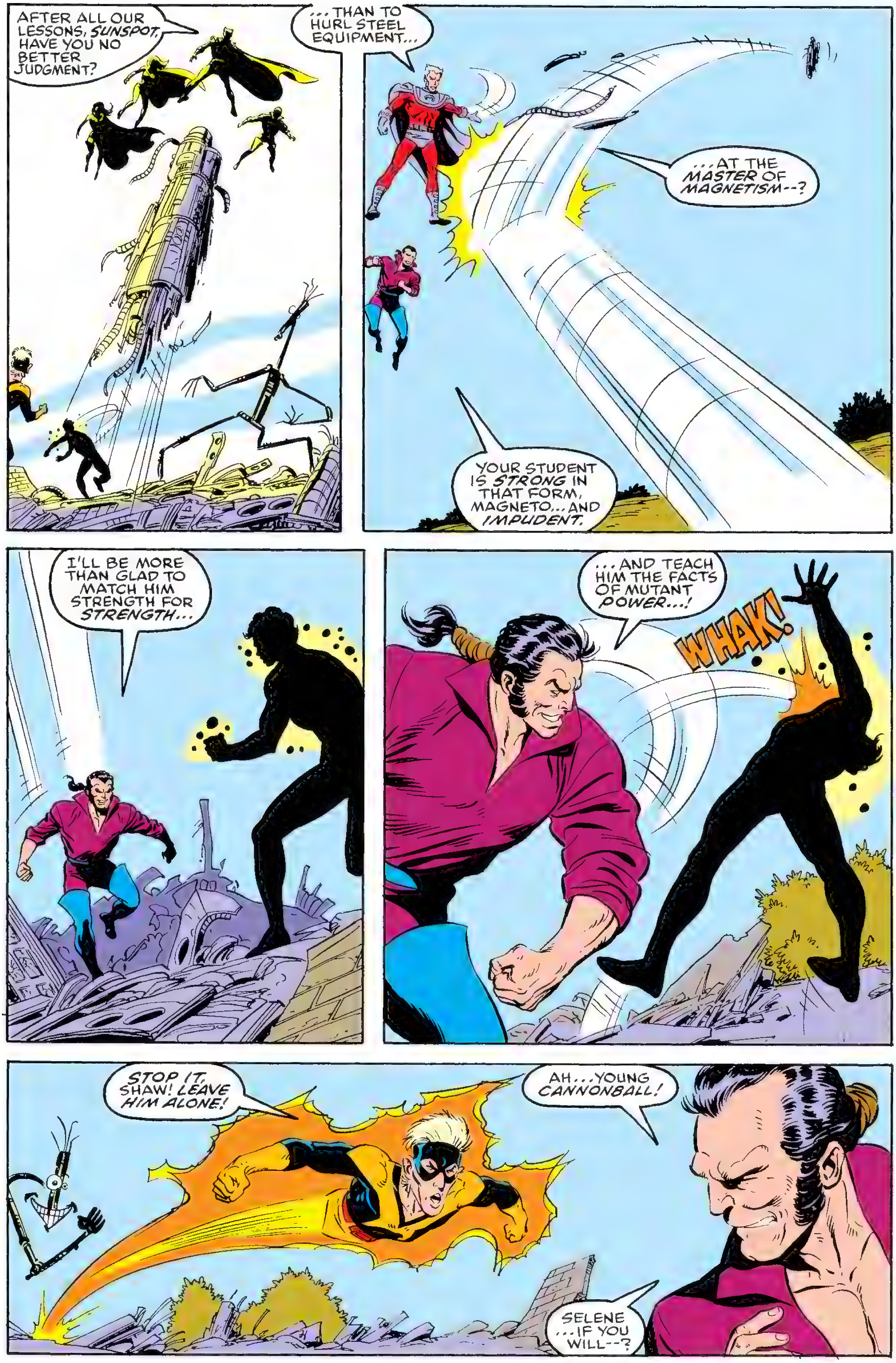

STAN LEE PRESENTS--
KING OF THE HILL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS MESS USED TA BE OUR SCHOOL!
Created by CHRIS CLAREMONT and BOB McLEOD

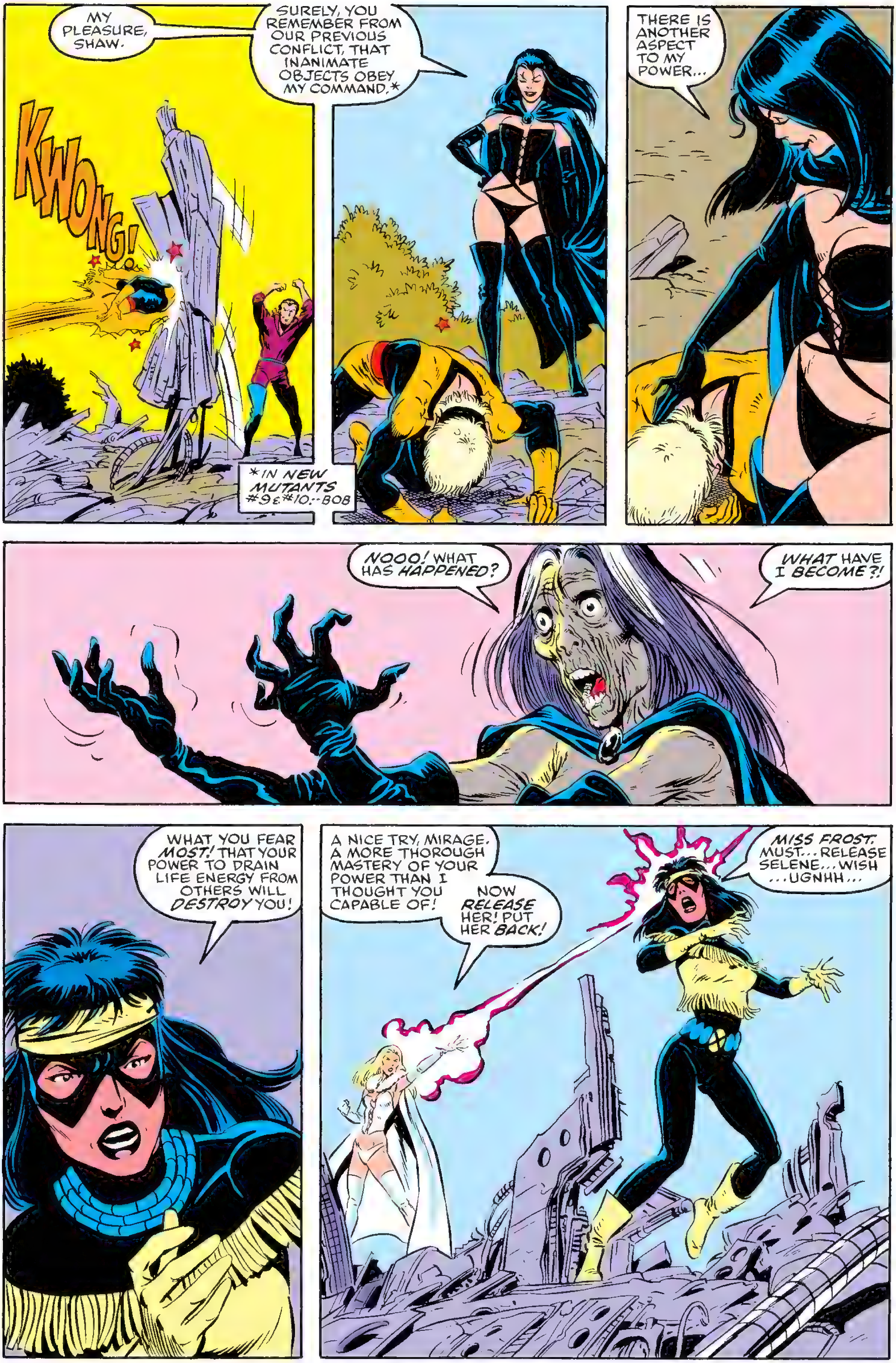
LOUISE SIMONSON *WRITER* JOHN BYRNE *PENCILER* BOB McLEOD *INKER* JOE ROSEN *LETTERER* GLYNIS OLIVER *COLORIST* BOB HARRAS *EDITOR* TOM DeFALCO *EDITOR IN CHIEF*

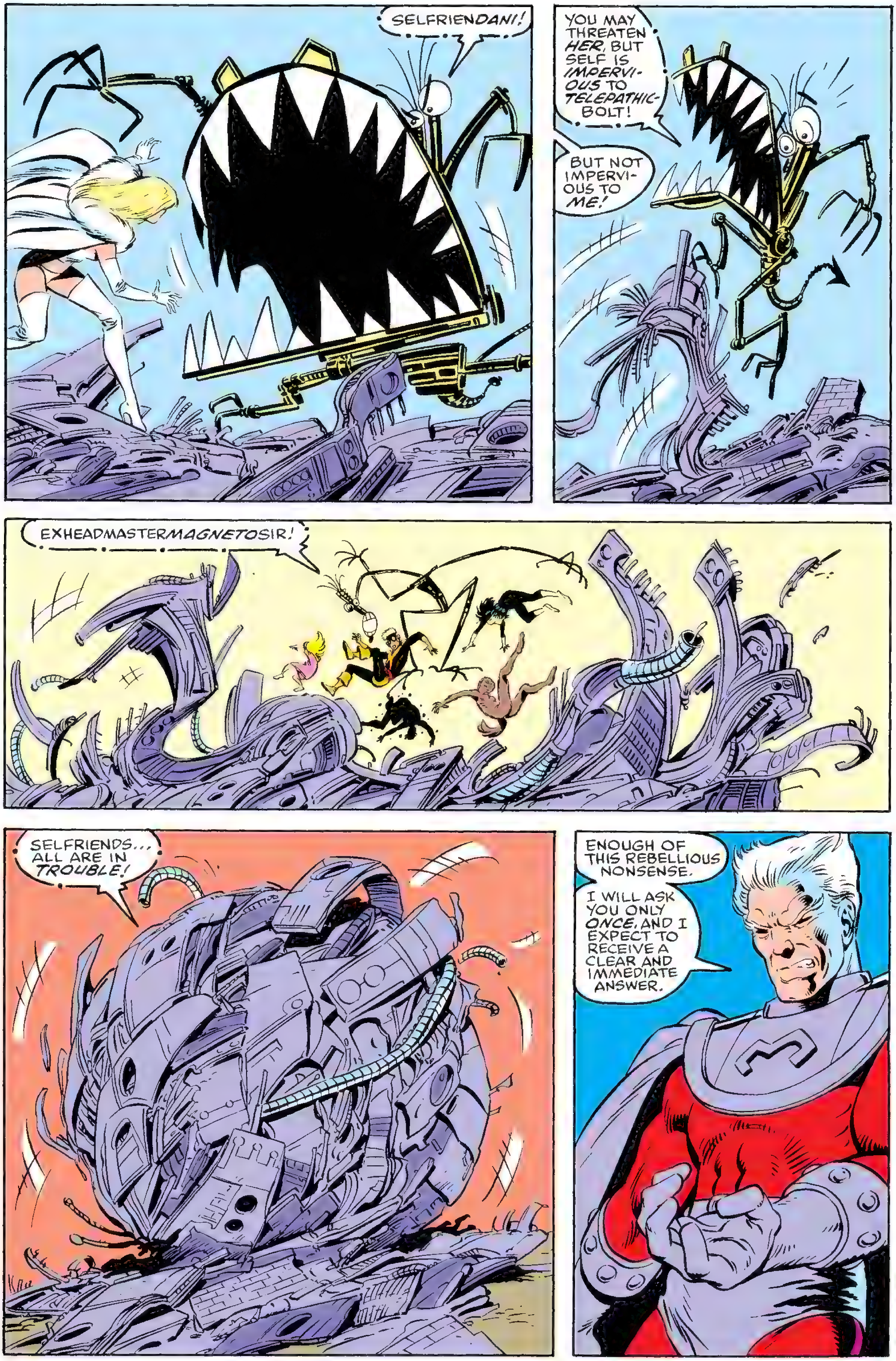

I WONDER... WHAT CAN HAVE *HAPPENED?*
IT *LOOKS* LIKE THE PLACE JUST... *EXPLODED!*
WAS IT *MAGNETO?* CAN HE BE--
NO CHANCE. OUR ERSTWHILE *HEADMASTER* SPENDS ALL HIS TIME WITH HIS PALS AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
CHANCES ARE, HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT'S *HAPPENED!*
I HOPE *NO* ONE WAS HERE, BECAUSE IF THEY WERE, THEY COULD NEVER HAVE *SURVIVED!*
НЕТ, МНЕ ЭТО НЕ НРАВИТСЯ.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ILLYANA DEAREST. I HAVE YOU... BUT IT WOULD CERTAINLY HELP IF YOU SPOKE ENGLISH...
UNNNNHHH!
WHAT WAS *THAT?*
SOMEBODY GROANED. I SEE A *DEATH GLOW.* THERE, BENEATH THE RUBBLE... SOMEBODY'S DYING!
THEY'RE *ALIVE...* BUT BARELY. BOBBY...?
LOOKS LIKE A PORTION OF THE SECOND FLOOR FELL ON HIM, WHOEVER HE IS.
HANG ON. WE'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A--
AARGH!
SO YOU *DID,* BOY! TO YOUR ETERNAL *REGRET!*

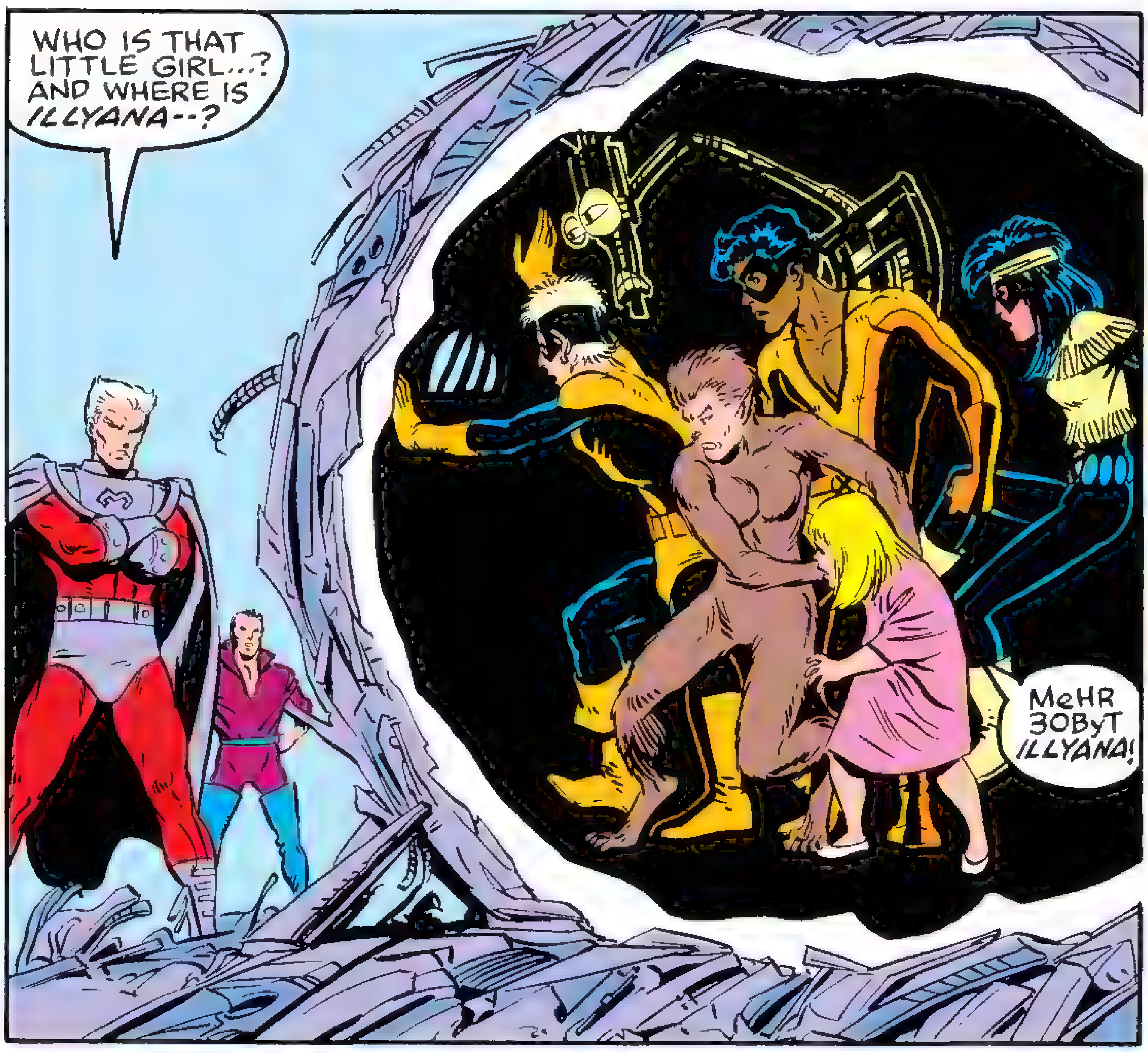

BOBBY! GET BACK!
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU--
NUNNNGH!
HE'S IN NO SHAPE TO HURT ANYONE, NOW.
YEAH, I FEEL KINDA GUILTY I HIT HIM SO HARD. BUT... WHO IS HE?
BRATS. DUMB MUTANT BRATS. WE DID ALL OF THIS... PROUD TA DO IT.
WHO... ARE YOU?
SABRETOOTH... OF THE MARAUDERS. HEARD OF US, EH? BOSSMAN SINISTER ...HE FOUGHT YOUR PRECIOUS MUTANT HEROES.*
BLEW THIS PLACE ALL TA HADES!
YOU SHOULDA BEEN HERE. IT WAS A... LAUGH... RIOT..
*IN X-MEN #243 AND X-FACTOR #39.--BOB
SELFRIENDS, SABRETOOTH IS DEAD.
IS HE?
INDEED SELFRIEND DANI. SELF PERCEIVES NO VITAL SIGNS, AT ALL.
ODD.
THE VALKYRIE'S GIFT LETS ME SEE DEATH COMING.
HE'S DEAD... AND YET, DEATH ISN'T COMING FOR SABRETOOTH. I WONDER WHY?
YOUR POWER'S BEEN ACTIN' FUNNY, RECENTLY, DANI.
THAT COULD BE IT. MY HEAD IS ACHING LIKE MAD.
I WONDER IF ANY OTHER MARAUDERS ARE LEFT AROUND?

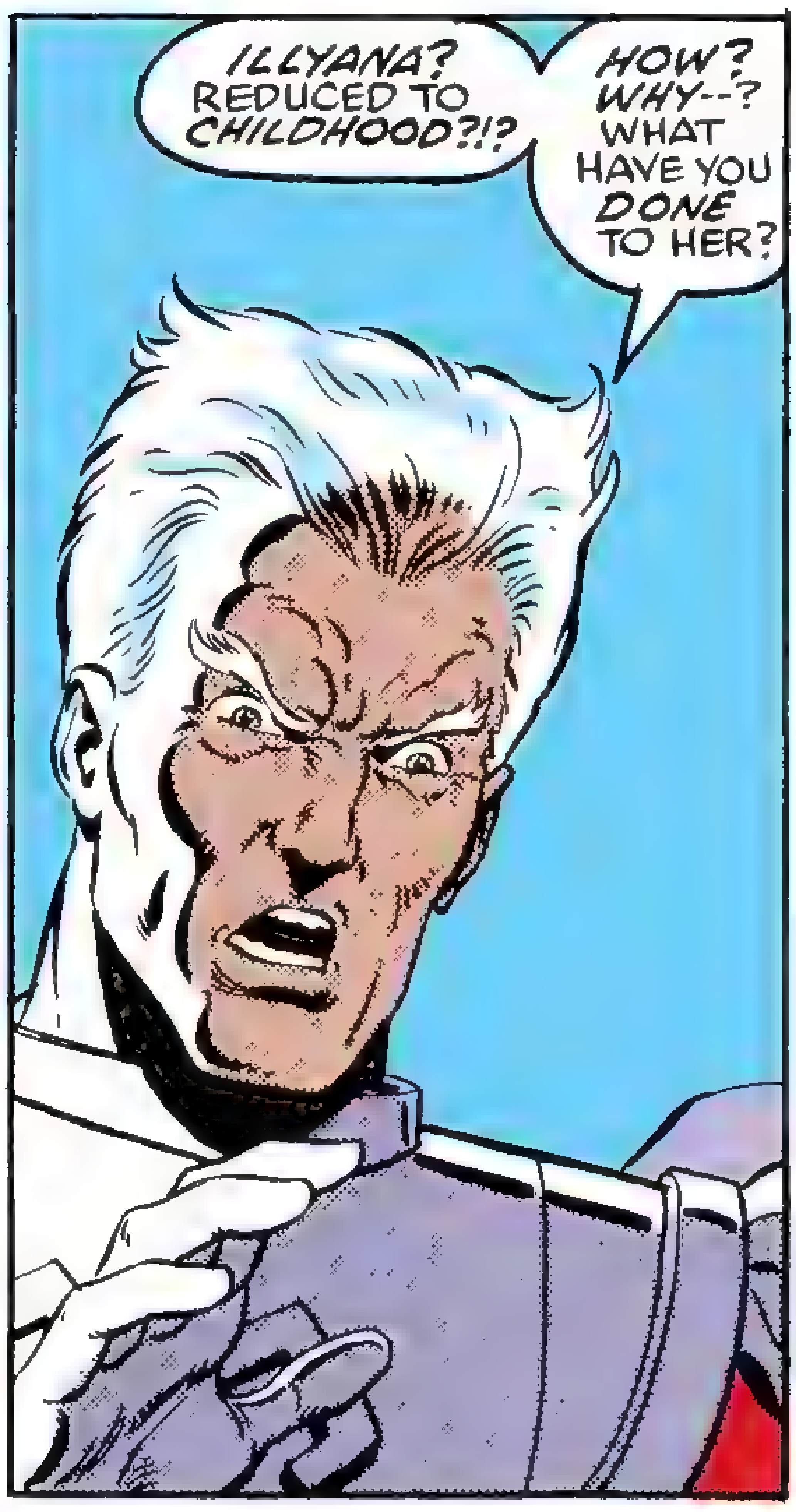

THE MARAUDERS HAVE MADE THEIR MOVE FOR DOMINATION LONG BEFORE I THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE...
...PERHAPS EMBOLDENED BY THE X-MEN'S *DEMISE.* I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING.
THE *HELLFIRE CLUB!*
MAGNETO!
THE *MANSION* IS *DESTROYED!* THE SCHOOL IS *GONE!* WE WON'T COME *BACK* WITH YOU!
BOBBY, *WAIT--!*

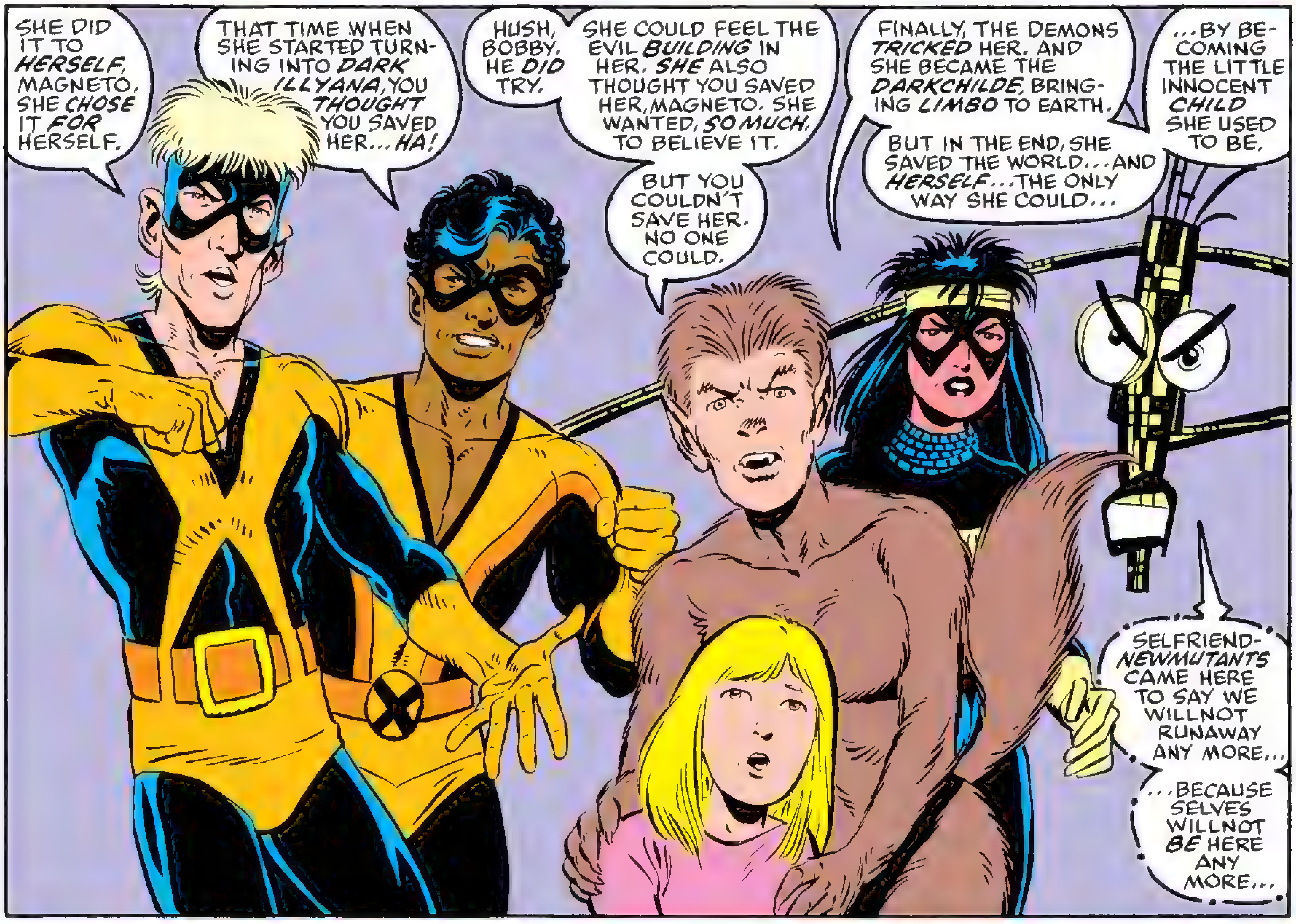

AFTER ALL OUR LESSONS, *SUNSPOT,* HAVE YOU NO BETTER JUDGMENT?
...THAN TO HURL STEEL EQUIPMENT...
...AT THE *MASTER OF MAGNETISM--?*
YOUR STUDENT IS *STRONG* IN THAT FORM, MAGNETO... AND *IMPUDENT.*
I'LL BE MORE THAN GLAD TO MATCH HIM STRENGTH FOR *STRENGTH...*
...AND TEACH HIM THE FACTS OF MUTANT *POWER...!*
WHAK!
STOP IT, SHAW! *LEAVE HIM ALONE!*
AH... YOUNG *CANNONBALL!*
SELENE ...IF YOU WILL--?

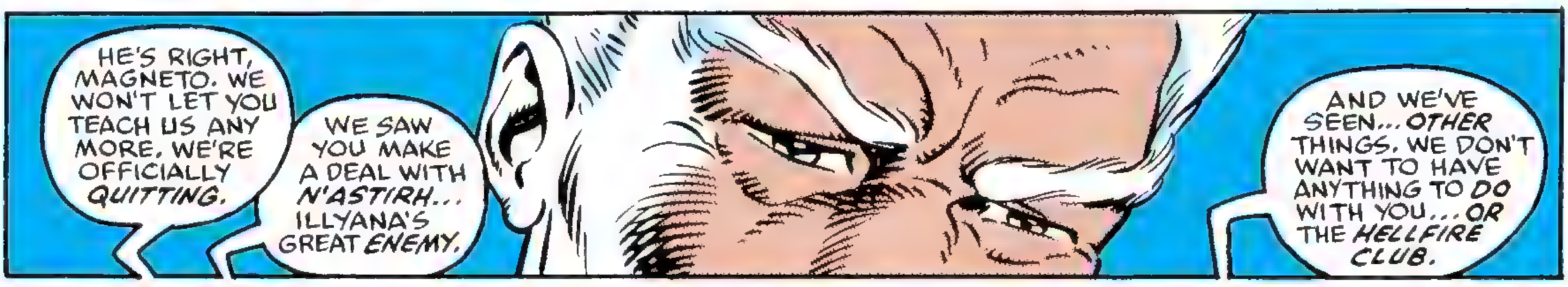

MY PLEASURE, SHAW.
SURELY, YOU REMEMBER FROM OUR PREVIOUS CONFLICT, THAT INANIMATE OBJECTS OBEY MY COMMAND.*
KWONG!
*IN NEW MUTANTS #9 & #10.-BOB
THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT TO MY POWER...
NOOO! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHAT HAVE I BECOME?!
WHAT YOU FEAR MOST! THAT YOUR POWER TO DRAIN LIFE ENERGY FROM OTHERS WILL DESTROY YOU!
A NICE TRY, MIRAGE. A MORE THOROUGH MASTERY OF YOUR POWER THAN I THOUGHT YOU CAPABLE OF!
NOW RELEASE HER! PUT HER BACK!
MISS FROST. MUST... RELEASE SELENE... WISH ...UGNHH...

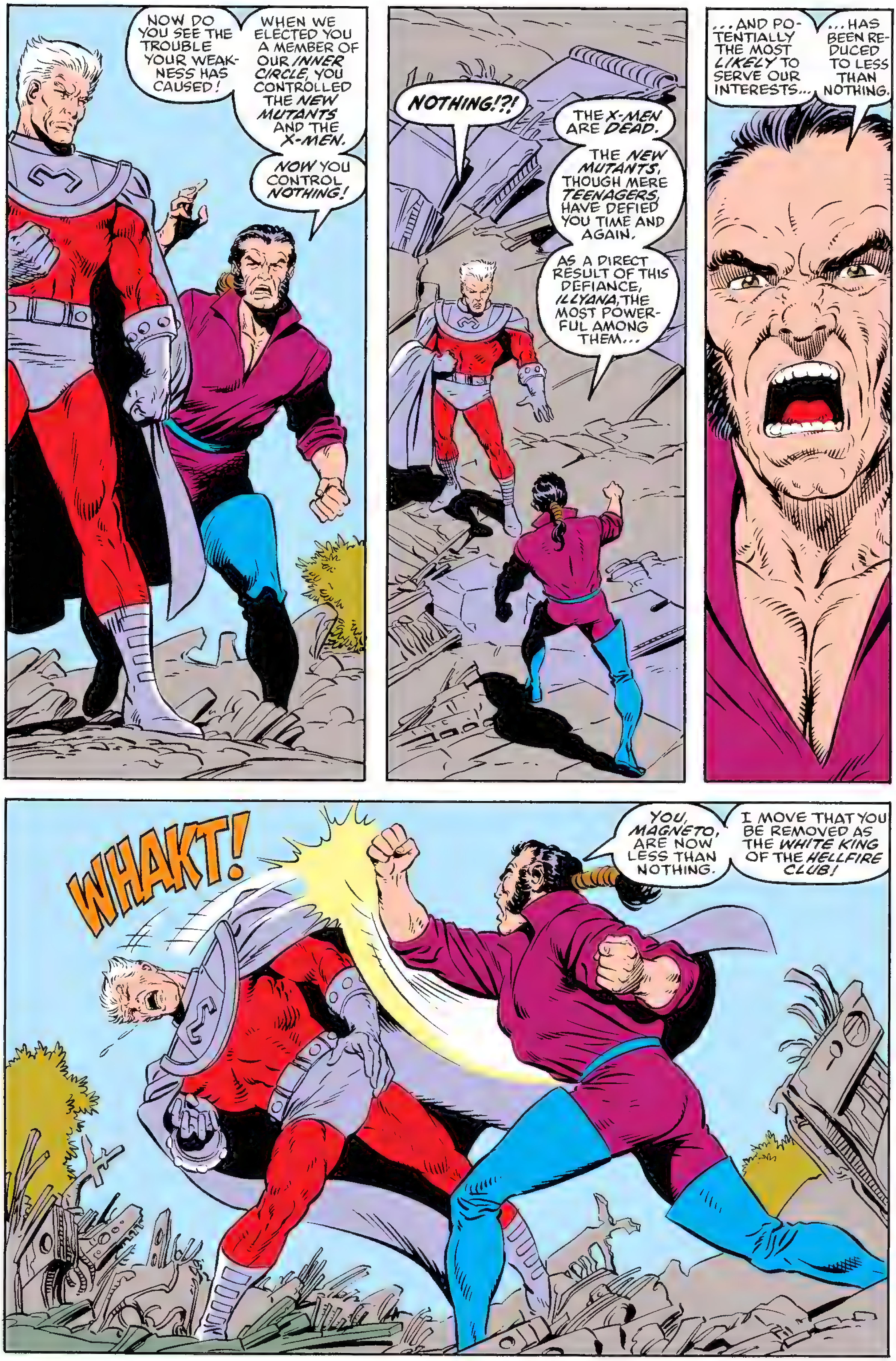

SELFRIENDDANI!
YOU MAY THREATEN HER, BUT SELF IS IMPERVIOUS TO TELEPATHIC BOLT!
BUT NOT IMPERVIOUS TO ME!
EXHEADMASTERMAGNETOSIR!
SELFRIENDS... ALL ARE IN TROUBLE!
ENOUGH OF THIS REBELLIOUS NONSENSE.
I WILL ASK YOU ONLY ONCE, AND I EXPECT TO RECEIVE A CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE ANSWER.

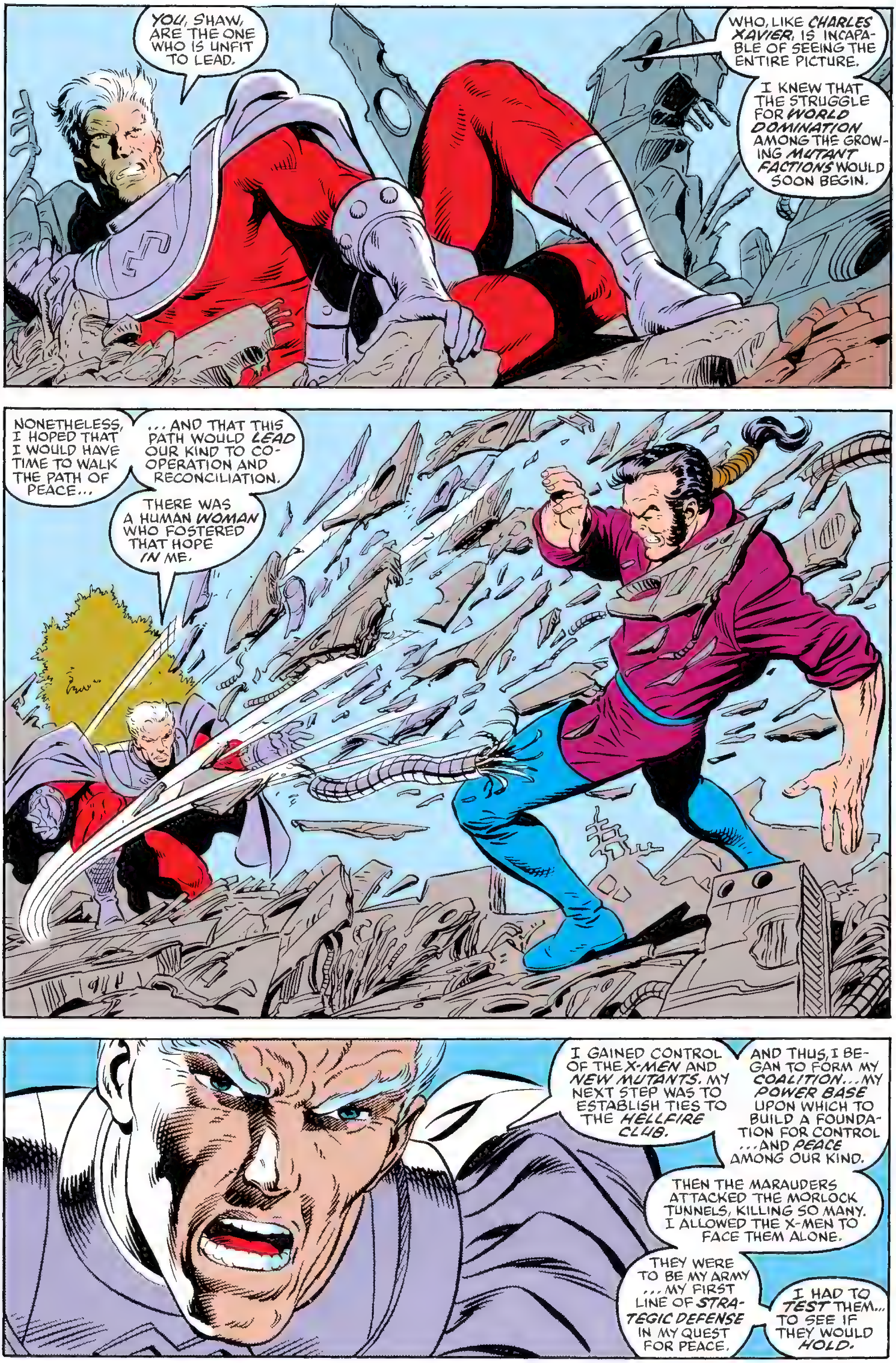

WHO IS THAT LITTLE GIRL--? AND WHERE IS *ILLYANA*--?
MeHR 3OByT *ILLYANA!*

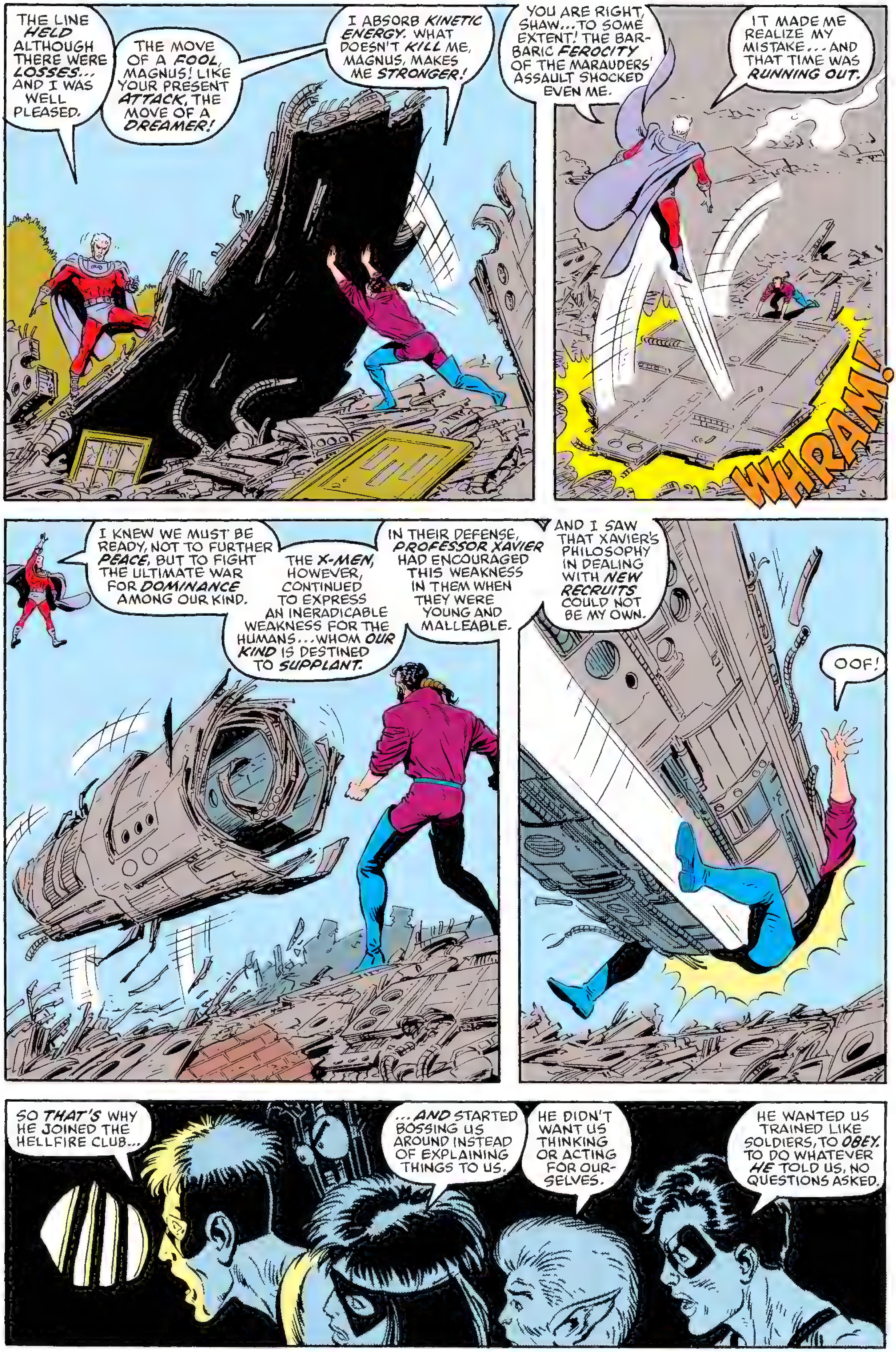

ILLYANA? REDUCED TO *CHILDHOOD?!?*
HOW? WHY--? WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HER?

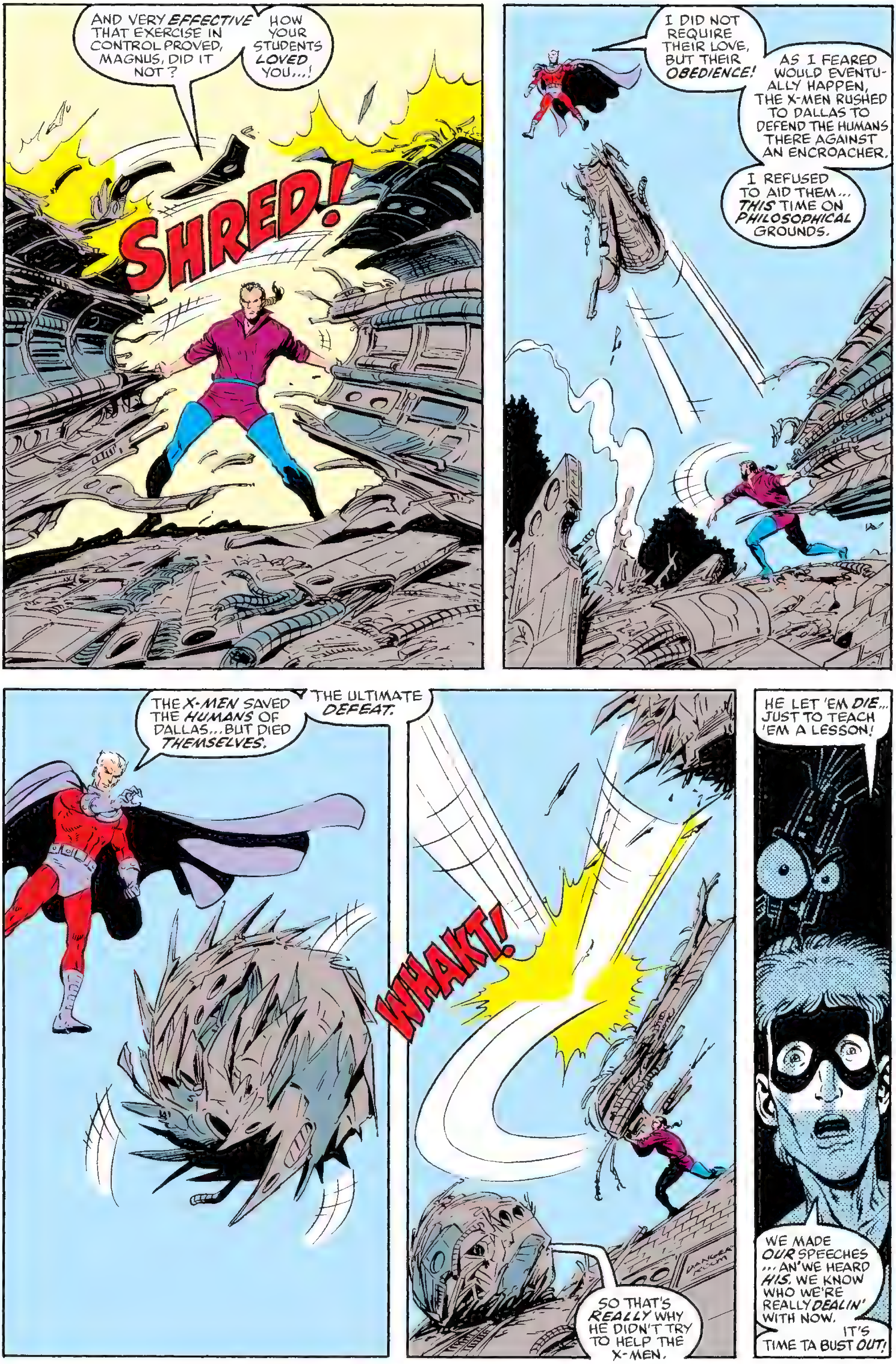

SHE DID IT TO *HERSELF*, MAGNETO. SHE *CHOSE* IT *FOR* HERSELF.
THAT TIME WHEN SHE STARTED TURNING INTO *DARK ILLYANA*, YOU *THOUGHT* YOU SAVED HER... *HA!*
HUSH, BOBBY. HE *DID* TRY.
SHE COULD FEEL THE EVIL *BUILDING* IN HER. *SHE* ALSO THOUGHT YOU SAVED HER, MAGNETO. SHE WANTED, *SO MUCH*, TO BELIEVE IT.
BUT YOU COULDN'T SAVE HER. NO ONE COULD.
FINALLY, THE DEMONS *TRICKED* HER. AND SHE BECAME THE *DARKCHILDE*, BRINGING *LIMBO* TO EARTH.
BUT IN THE END, SHE SAVED THE WORLD... AND *HERSELF*... THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD...
...BY BECOMING THE LITTLE INNOCENT *CHILD* SHE USED TO BE.
SELFRIEND-*NEWMUTANTS* CAME HERE TO SAY WE WILLNOT RUNAWAY ANY MORE...
...BECAUSE SELVES WILLNOT *BE* HERE ANY MORE...

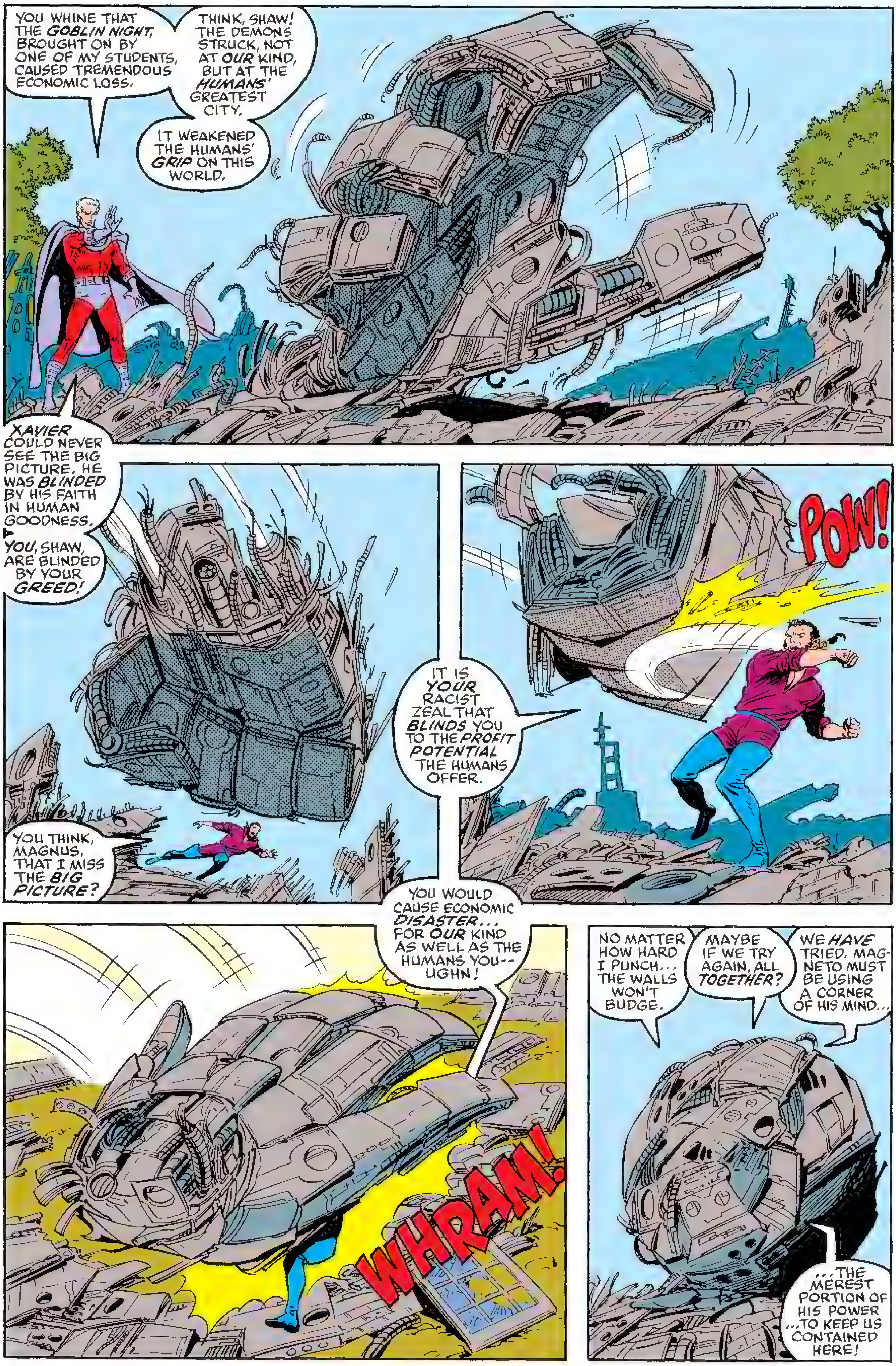

HE'S RIGHT, MAGNETO. WE WON'T LET YOU TEACH US ANY MORE. WE'RE OFFICIALLY *QUITTING*.
WE SAW YOU MAKE A DEAL WITH *N'ASTIRH*... ILLYANA'S GREAT *ENEMY*.
AND WE'VE SEEN... *OTHER* THINGS. WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO *DO* WITH YOU... *OR* THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*.

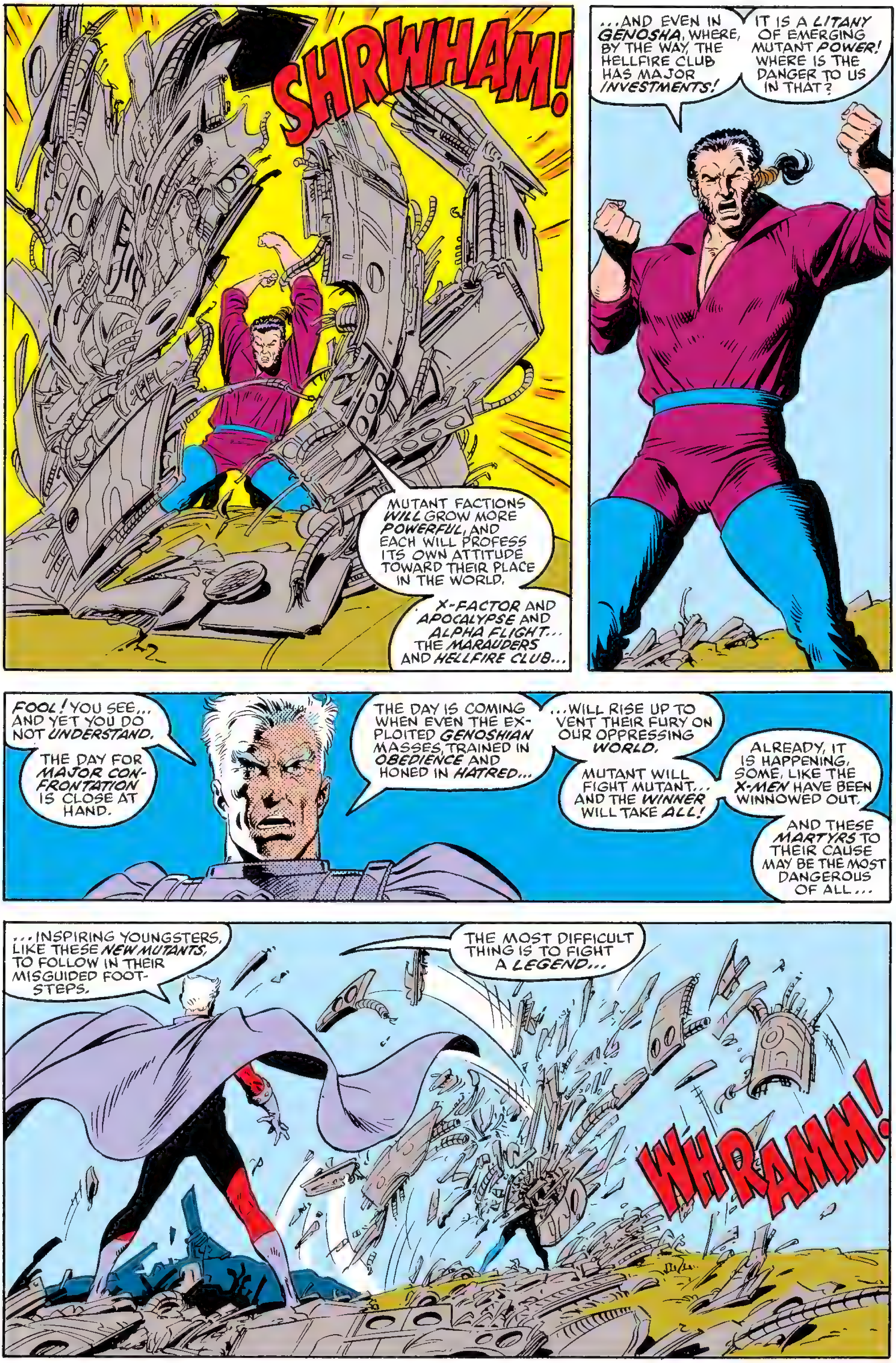

NOW DO YOU SEE THE TROUBLE YOUR WEAKNESS HAS CAUSED!
WHEN WE ELECTED YOU A MEMBER OF OUR *INNER CIRCLE*, YOU CONTROLLED THE *NEW MUTANTS* AND THE *X-MEN*.
NOW YOU CONTROL *NOTHING!*
NOTHING!?!
THE *X-MEN* ARE *DEAD*.
THE *NEW MUTANTS*, THOUGH MERE *TEENAGERS*, HAVE DEFIED YOU TIME AND AGAIN.
AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS DEFIANCE, *ILLYANA*, THE MOST POWERFUL AMONG THEM...
...AND POTENTIALLY THE MOST *LIKELY* TO SERVE OUR INTERESTS...
...HAS BEEN REDUCED TO LESS THAN NOTHING.
WHAKT!
YOU, *MAGNETO*, ARE NOW LESS THAN NOTHING.
I MOVE THAT YOU BE REMOVED AS THE *WHITE KING* OF THE *HELLFIRE CLUB!*

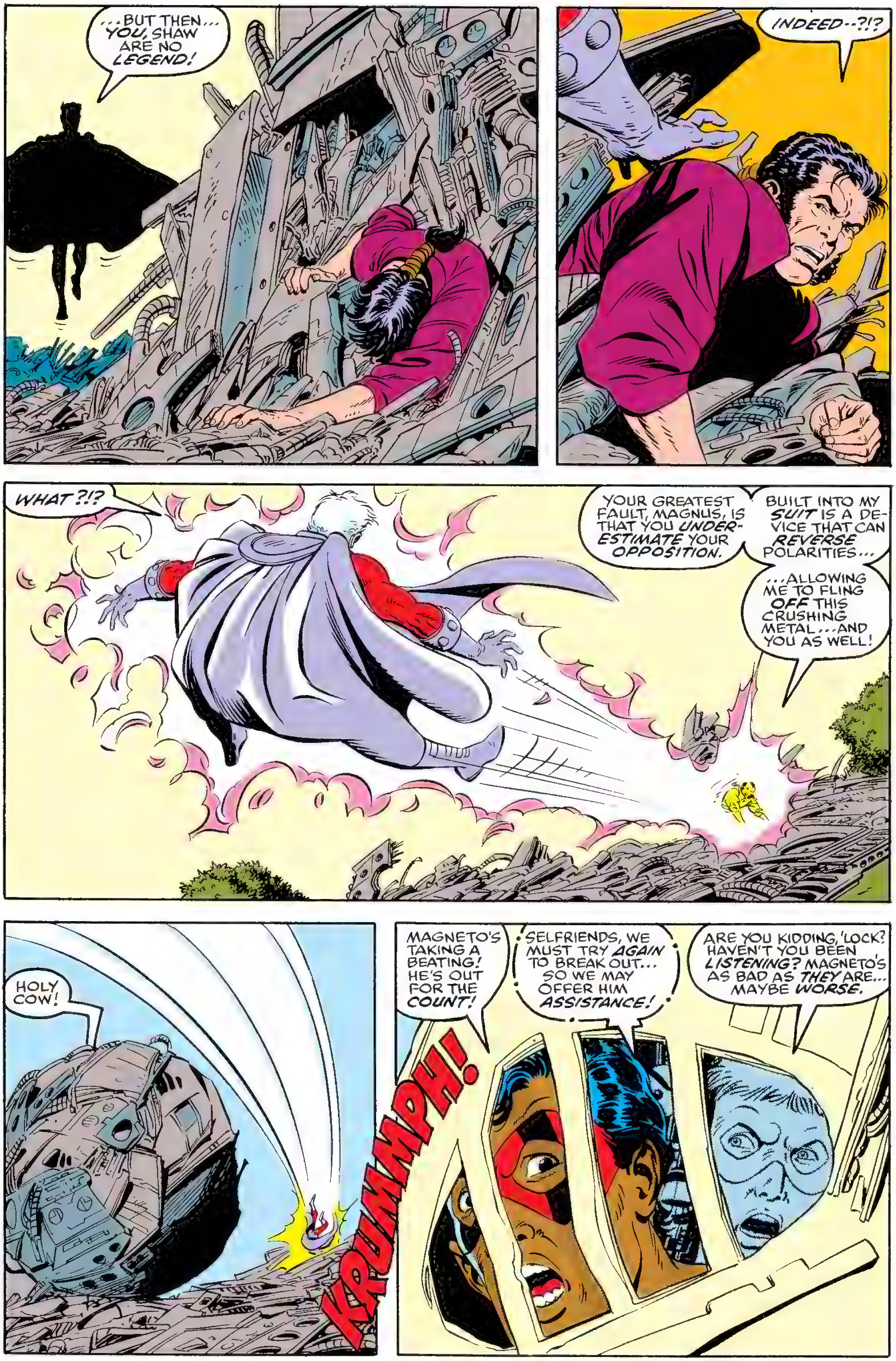

YOU, SHAW, ARE THE ONE WHO IS UNFIT TO LEAD.
WHO, LIKE CHARLES XAVIER, IS INCAPABLE OF SEEING THE ENTIRE PICTURE.
I KNEW THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR WORLD DOMINATION AMONG THE GROWING MUTANT FACTIONS WOULD SOON BEGIN.
NONETHELESS, I HOPED THAT I WOULD HAVE TIME TO WALK THE PATH OF PEACE...
...AND THAT THIS PATH WOULD LEAD OUR KIND TO CO-OPERATION AND RECONCILIATION.
THERE WAS A HUMAN WOMAN WHO FOSTERED THAT HOPE IN ME.
I GAINED CONTROL OF THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS. MY NEXT STEP WAS TO ESTABLISH TIES TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
AND THUS, I BEGAN TO FORM MY COALITION... MY POWER BASE UPON WHICH TO BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR CONTROL ...AND PEACE AMONG OUR KIND.
THEN THE MARAUDERS ATTACKED THE MORLOCK TUNNELS, KILLING SO MANY. I ALLOWED THE X-MEN TO FACE THEM ALONE.
THEY WERE TO BE MY ARMY ...MY FIRST LINE OF STRATEGIC DEFENSE IN MY QUEST FOR PEACE.
I HAD TO TEST THEM... TO SEE IF THEY WOULD HOLD.

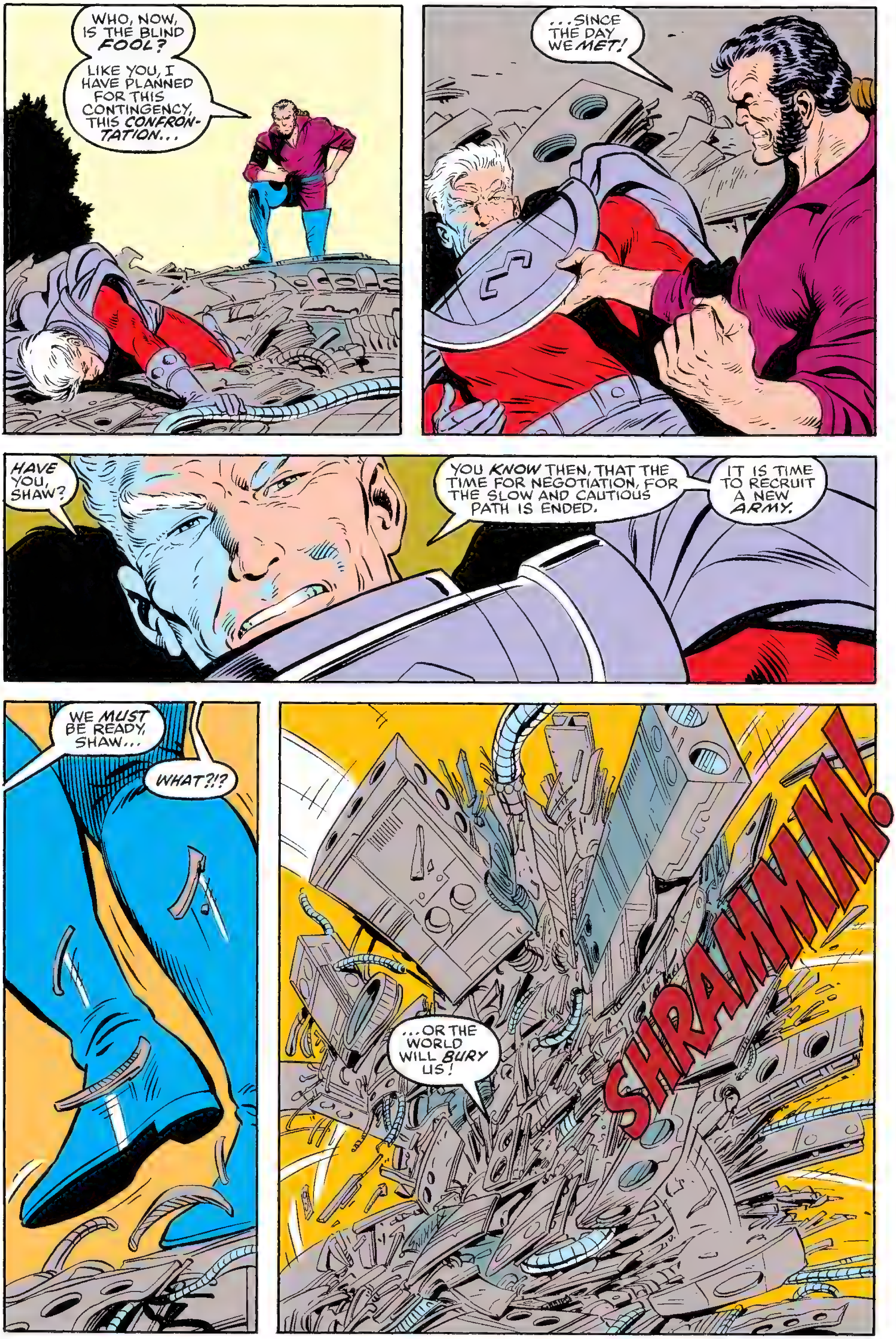

THE LINE HELD ALTHOUGH THERE WERE LOSSES... AND I WAS WELL PLEASED.
THE MOVE OF A FOOL, MAGNUS! LIKE YOUR PRESENT ATTACK, THE MOVE OF A DREAMER!
I ABSORB KINETIC ENERGY. WHAT DOESN'T KILL ME, MAGNUS, MAKES ME STRONGER!
YOU ARE RIGHT, SHAW... TO SOME EXTENT! THE BARBARIC FEROCITY OF THE MARAUDERS' ASSAULT SHOCKED EVEN ME.
IT MADE ME REALIZE MY MISTAKE... AND THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT.
WHRAM!
I KNEW WE MUST BE READY, NOT TO FURTHER PEACE, BUT TO FIGHT THE ULTIMATE WAR FOR DOMINANCE AMONG OUR KIND.
THE X-MEN, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO EXPRESS AN INERADICABLE WEAKNESS FOR THE HUMANS... WHOM OUR KIND IS DESTINED TO SUPPLANT.
IN THEIR DEFENSE, PROFESSOR XAVIER HAD ENCOURAGED THIS WEAKNESS IN THEM WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG AND MALLEABLE.
AND I SAW THAT XAVIER'S PHILOSOPHY IN DEALING WITH NEW RECRUITS COULD NOT BE MY OWN.
OOF!
SO THAT'S WHY HE JOINED THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
...AND STARTED BOSSING US AROUND INSTEAD OF EXPLAINING THINGS TO US.
HE DIDN'T WANT US THINKING OR ACTING FOR OURSELVES.
HE WANTED US TRAINED LIKE SOLDIERS, TO OBEY. TO DO WHATEVER HE TOLD US, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

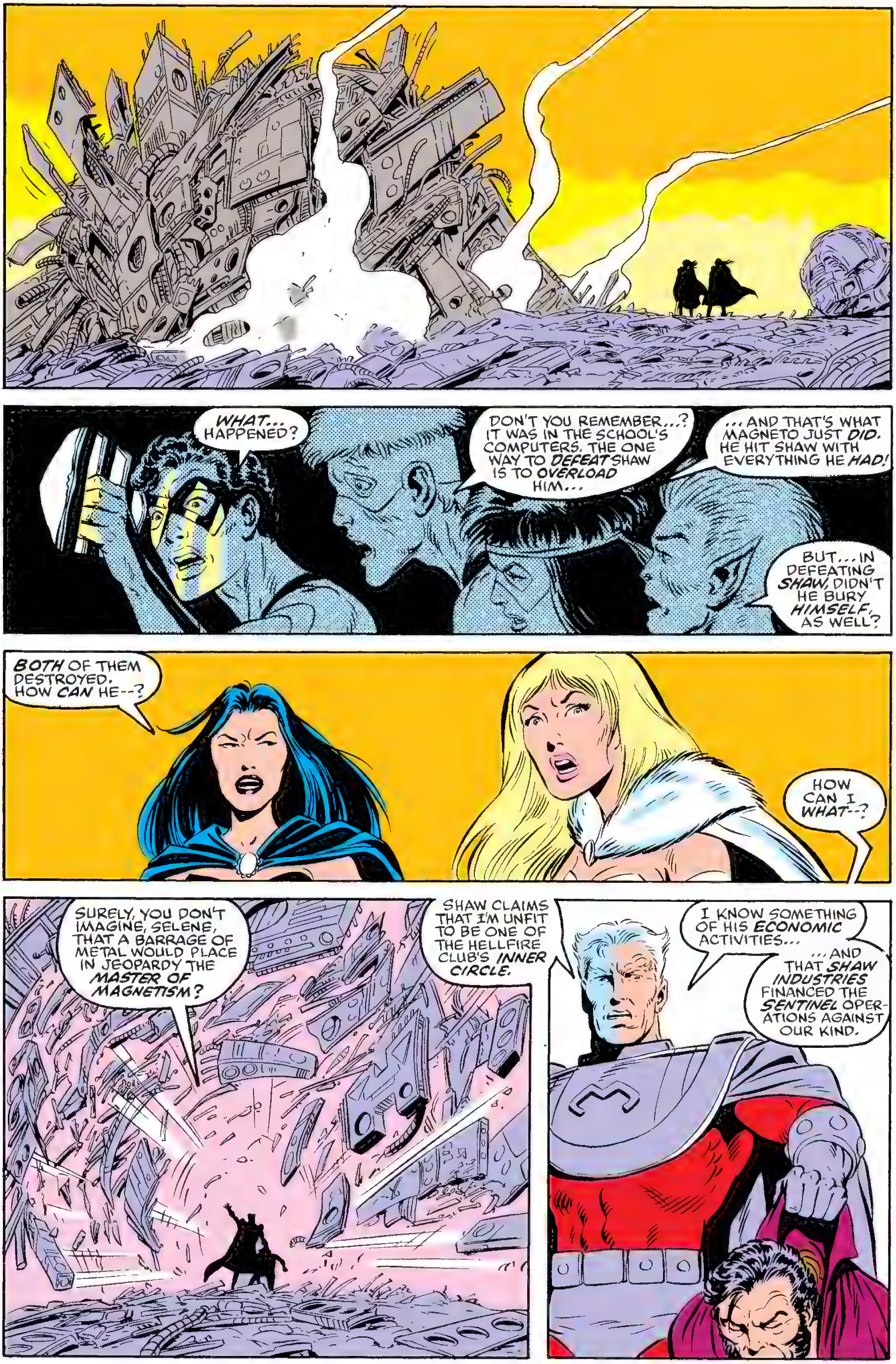

AND VERY *EFFECTIVE* THAT EXERCISE IN CONTROL PROVED, MAGNUS, DID IT NOT?
HOW YOUR STUDENTS *LOVED* YOU...!
SHRED!
I DID NOT REQUIRE THEIR LOVE, BUT THEIR *OBEDIENCE!*
AS I FEARED WOULD EVENTUALLY HAPPEN, THE X-MEN RUSHED TO DALLAS TO DEFEND THE HUMANS THERE AGAINST AN ENCROACHER.
I REFUSED TO AID THEM... *THIS* TIME ON *PHILOSOPHICAL* GROUNDS.
THE *X-MEN* SAVED THE *HUMANS* OF DALLAS... BUT DIED *THEMSELVES.*
THE ULTIMATE *DEFEAT.*
WHAKT!
DANGER ROOM
SO THAT'S *REALLY* WHY HE DIDN'T TRY TO HELP THE X-MEN.
HE LET 'EM *DIE*... JUST TO TEACH 'EM A LESSON!
WE MADE *OUR* SPEECHES ... AN' WE HEARD *HIS.* WE KNOW WHO WE'RE REALLY *DEALIN'* WITH NOW.
IT'S TIME TA BUST *OUT!*

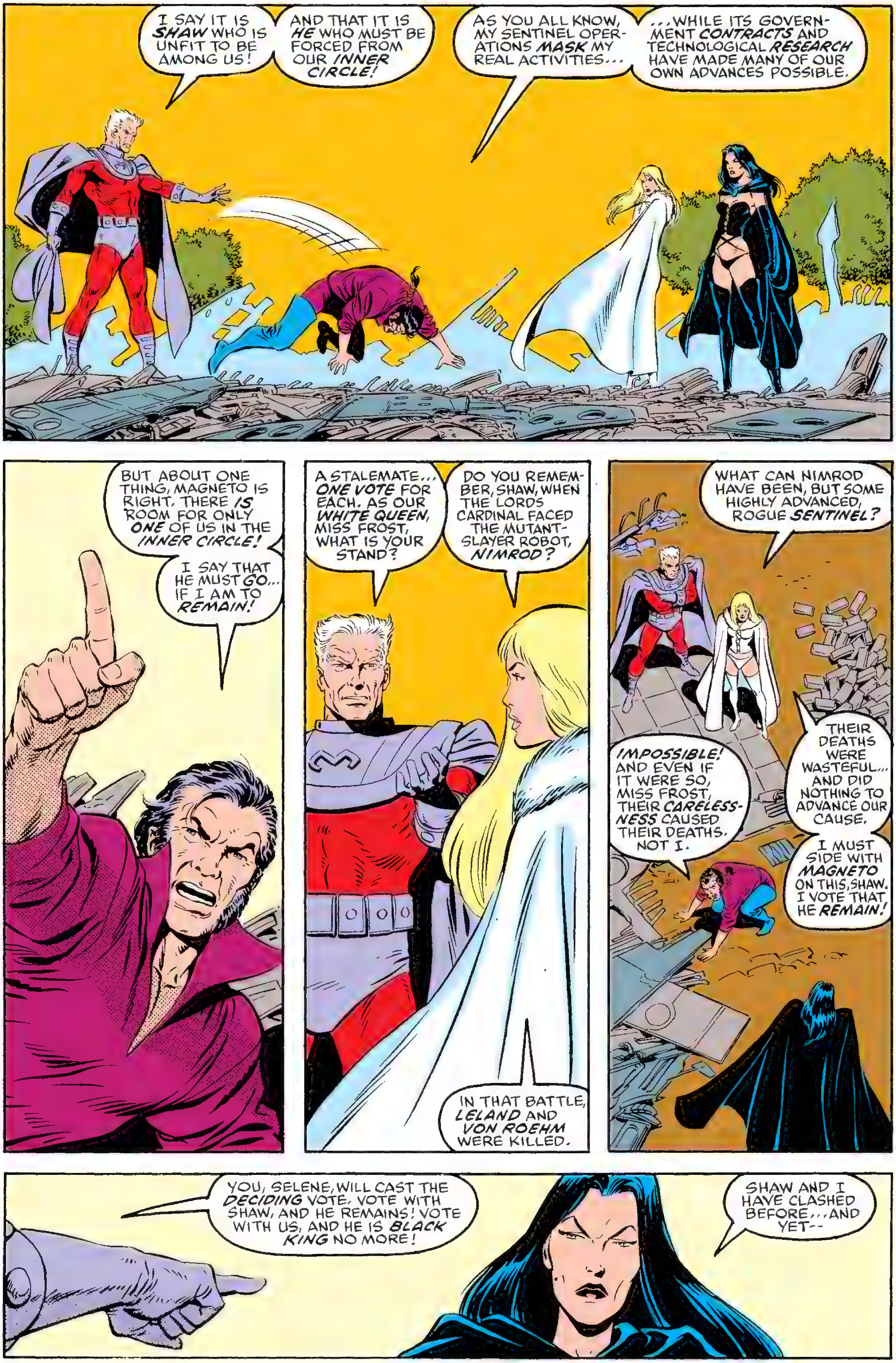

YOU WHINE THAT THE *GOBLIN NIGHT*, BROUGHT ON BY ONE OF MY STUDENTS, CAUSED TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC LOSS.
THINK, SHAW! THE DEMONS STRUCK, NOT AT **OUR** KIND, BUT AT THE *HUMANS'* GREATEST CITY.
IT WEAKENED THE HUMANS' *GRIP* ON THIS WORLD.
XAVIER COULD NEVER SEE THE BIG PICTURE. HE WAS *BLINDED* BY HIS FAITH IN HUMAN GOODNESS.
YOU, SHAW, ARE BLINDED BY YOUR *GREED!*
YOU THINK, MAGNUS, THAT I MISS THE *BIG PICTURE?*
IT IS *YOUR* RACIST ZEAL THAT *BLINDS* YOU TO THE *PROFIT POTENTIAL* THE HUMANS OFFER.
POW!
YOU WOULD CAUSE ECONOMIC *DISASTER*... FOR **OUR** KIND AS WELL AS THE HUMANS YOU-- UGHN!
WHRAM!
NO MATTER HOW HARD I PUNCH... THE WALLS WON'T BUDGE.
MAYBE IF WE TRY AGAIN, ALL *TOGETHER?*
WE *HAVE* TRIED. MAGNETO MUST BE USING A CORNER OF HIS MIND...
...THE MEREST PORTION OF HIS POWER ...TO KEEP US CONTAINED HERE!

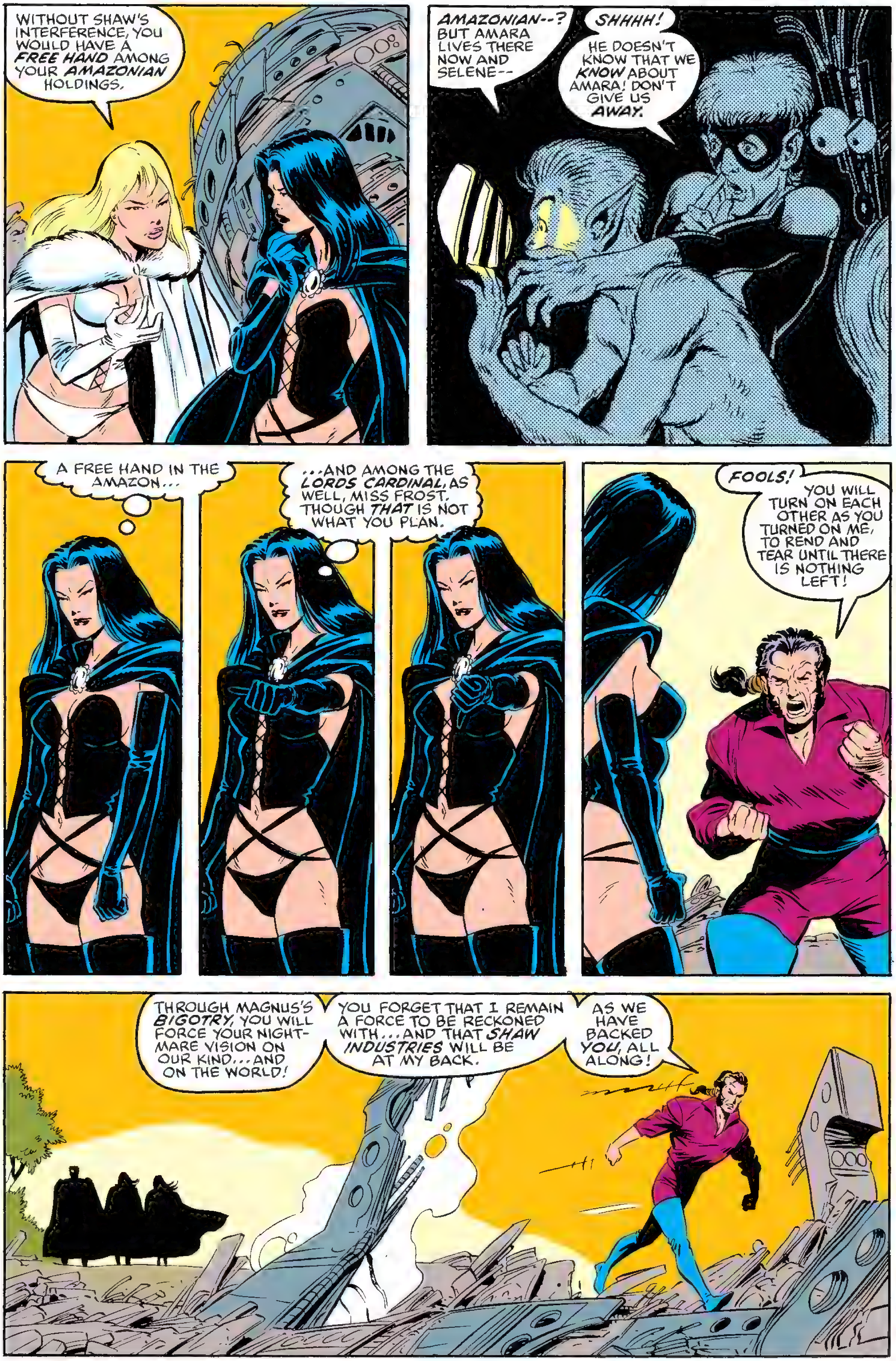

SHRWHAM!
MUTANT FACTIONS *WILL* GROW MORE *POWERFUL*, AND EACH WILL PROFESS ITS OWN ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD.
X-FACTOR AND *APOCALYPSE* AND *ALPHA FLIGHT*... THE *MARAUDERS* AND *HELLFIRE CLUB*...
...AND EVEN IN *GENOSHA*, WHERE, BY THE WAY, THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS MAJOR *INVESTMENTS!*
IT IS A *LITANY* OF EMERGING MUTANT *POWER!* WHERE IS THE DANGER TO US IN THAT?
FOOL! YOU SEE... AND YET YOU DO NOT *UNDERSTAND*.
THE DAY FOR *MAJOR CONFRONTATION* IS CLOSE AT HAND.
THE DAY IS COMING WHEN EVEN THE EXPLOITED *GENOSHIAN* MASSES, TRAINED IN *OBEDIENCE* AND HONED IN *HATRED*...
...WILL RISE UP TO VENT THEIR FURY ON OUR OPPRESSING *WORLD*.
MUTANT WILL FIGHT MUTANT... AND THE *WINNER* WILL TAKE *ALL!*
ALREADY, IT IS HAPPENING. SOME, LIKE THE *X-MEN* HAVE BEEN WINNOWED OUT.
AND THESE *MARTYRS* TO THEIR CAUSE MAY BE THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL...
...INSPIRING YOUNGSTERS, LIKE THESE *NEW MUTANTS*, TO FOLLOW IN THEIR MISGUIDED FOOTSTEPS.
THE MOST DIFFICULT THING IS TO FIGHT A *LEGEND*...
WHRAMM!

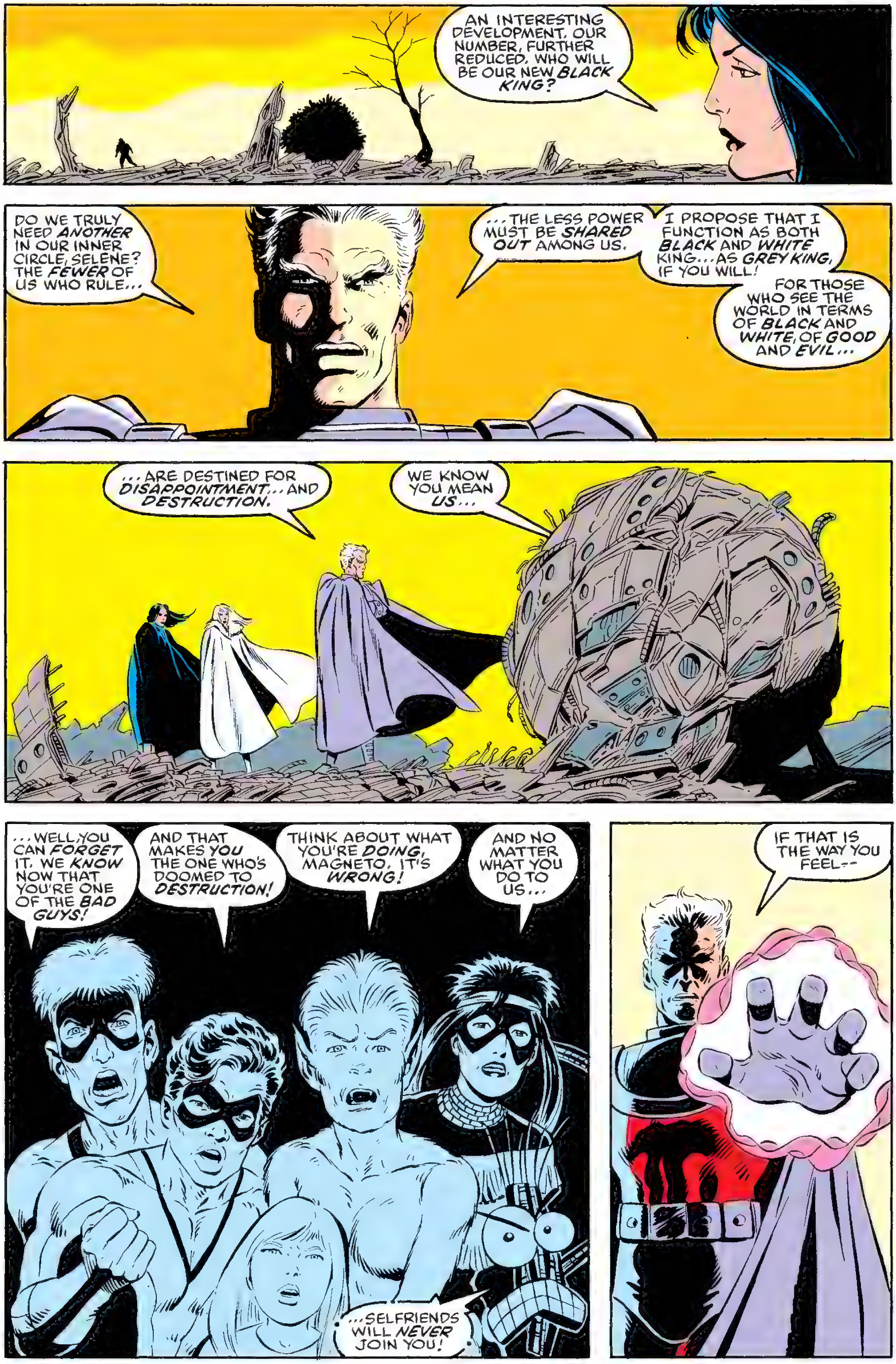

...BUT THEN... *YOU*, SHAW ARE NO *LEGEND!*
INDEED--?!?
WHAT?!?
YOUR GREATEST FAULT, MAGNUS, IS THAT YOU *UNDERESTIMATE* YOUR *OPPOSITION.*
BUILT INTO MY *SUIT* IS A DEVICE THAT CAN *REVERSE* POLARITIES...
...ALLOWING ME TO FLING *OFF* THIS CRUSHING METAL...AND YOU AS WELL!
HOLY COW!
KRUMMPH!
MAGNETO'S TAKING A BEATING! HE'S OUT FOR THE *COUNT!*
SELFRIENDS, WE MUST TRY *AGAIN* TO BREAK OUT... SO WE MAY OFFER HIM *ASSISTANCE!*
ARE YOU KIDDING, 'LOCK? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN *LISTENING?* MAGNETO'S AS BAD AS *THEY* ARE... MAYBE *WORSE.*

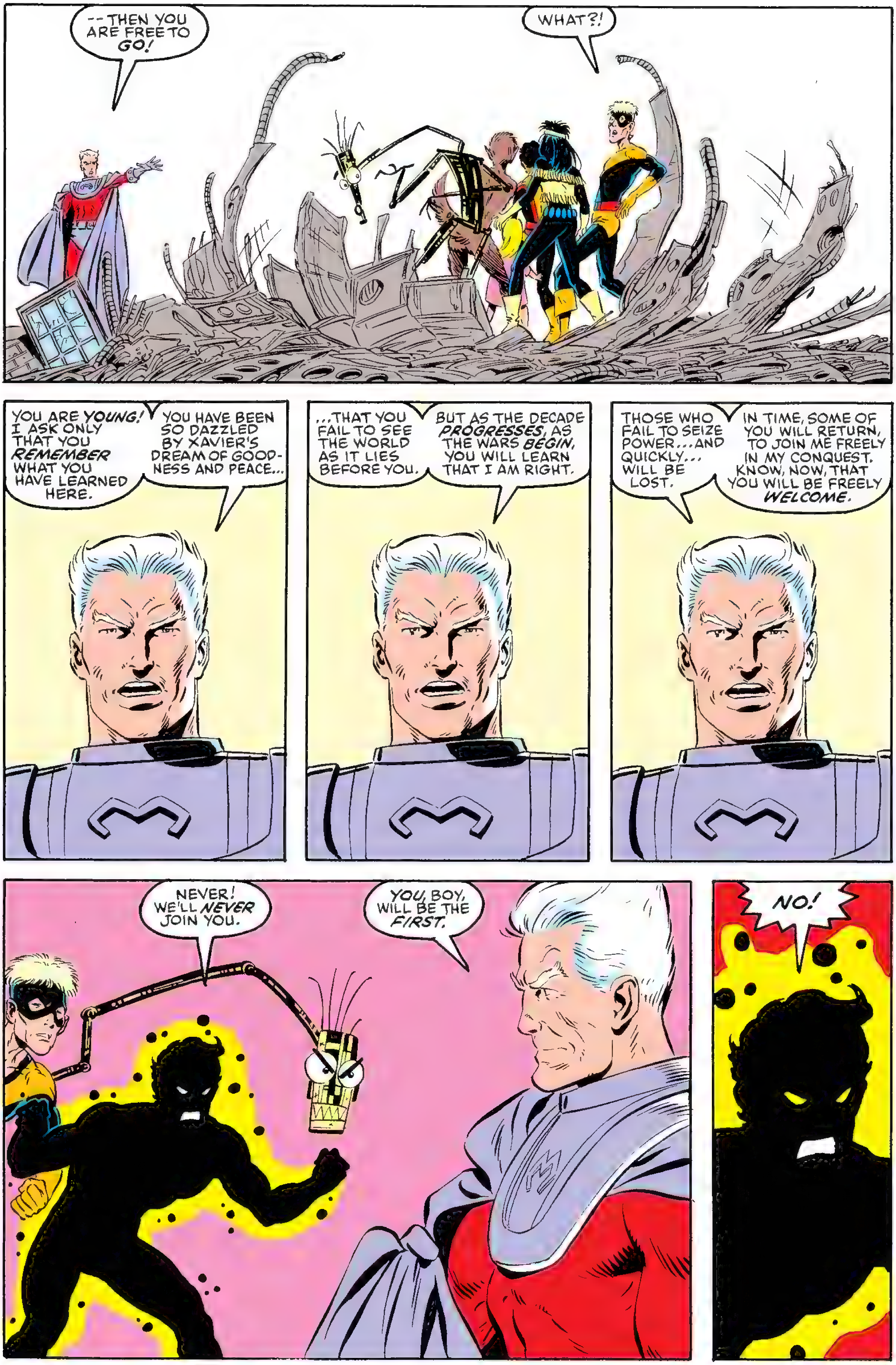

WHO, NOW, IS THE BLIND *FOOL?*
LIKE YOU, I HAVE PLANNED FOR THIS CONTINGENCY, THIS *CONFRONTATION...*
...SINCE THE DAY WE *MET!*
HAVE YOU, SHAW?
YOU *KNOW* THEN, THAT THE TIME FOR NEGOTIATION, FOR THE SLOW AND CAUTIOUS PATH IS ENDED.
IT IS TIME TO RECRUIT A NEW *ARMY.*
WE *MUST* BE READY, SHAW...
WHAT?!?
...OR THE WORLD WILL *BURY* US!
SHRAMMM!

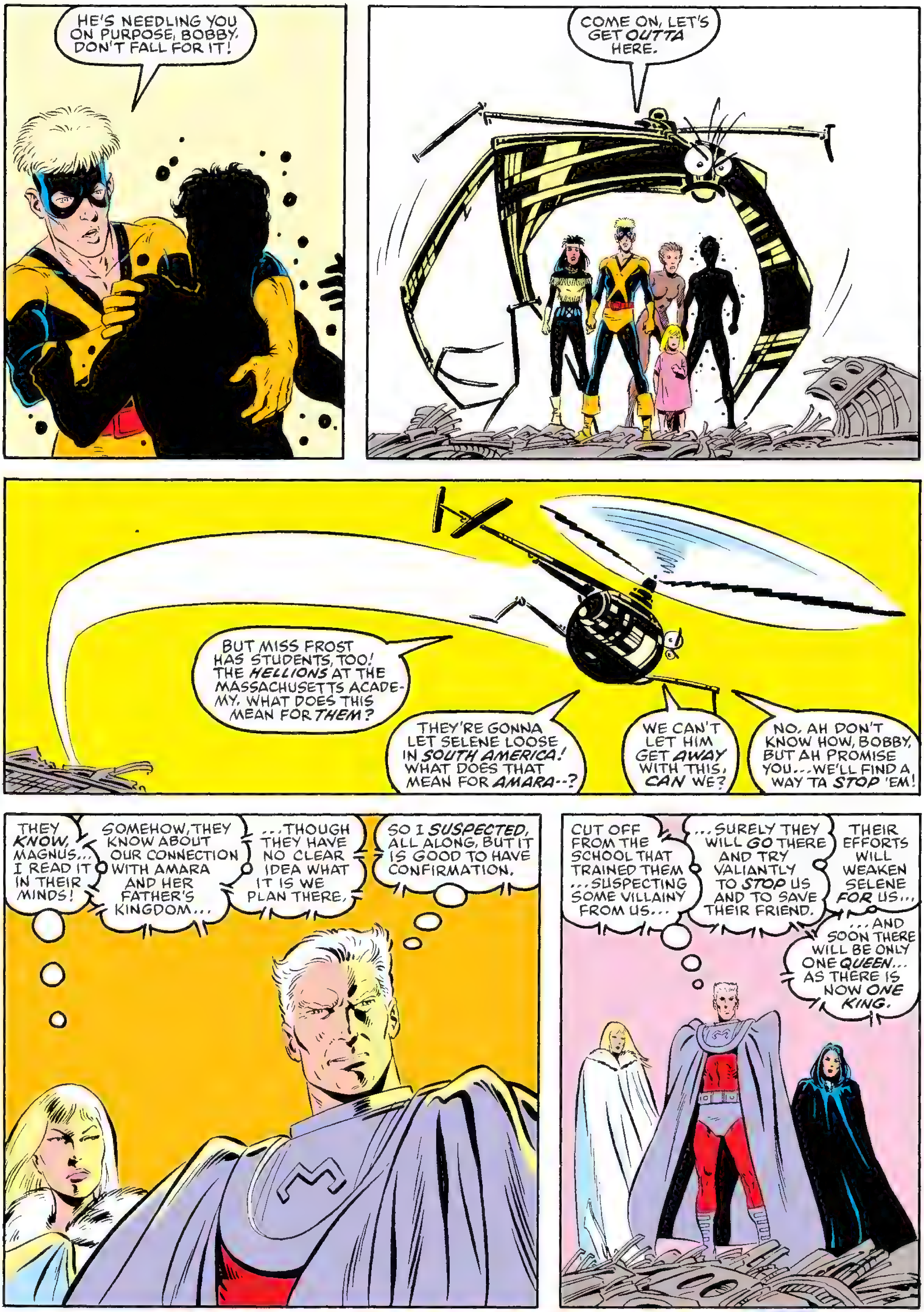

WHAT... HAPPENED?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER...? IT WAS IN THE SCHOOL'S COMPUTERS. THE ONE WAY TO DEFEAT SHAW IS TO OVERLOAD HIM...
...AND THAT'S WHAT MAGNETO JUST DID. HE HIT SHAW WITH EVERYTHING HE HAD!
BUT... IN DEFEATING SHAW, DIDN'T HE BURY HIMSELF, AS WELL?
BOTH OF THEM DESTROYED. HOW CAN HE--?
HOW CAN I WHAT--?
SURELY, YOU DON'T IMAGINE, SELENE, THAT A BARRAGE OF METAL WOULD PLACE IN JEOPARDY THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM?
SHAW CLAIMS THAT I'M UNFIT TO BE ONE OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INNER CIRCLE.
I KNOW SOMETHING OF HIS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES...
...AND THAT SHAW INDUSTRIES FINANCED THE SENTINEL OPERATIONS AGAINST OUR KIND.


I SAY IT IS *SHAW* WHO IS UNFIT TO BE AMONG US!
AND THAT IT IS *HE* WHO MUST BE FORCED FROM OUR *INNER CIRCLE!*
AS YOU ALL KNOW, MY SENTINEL OPERATIONS *MASK* MY REAL ACTIVITIES...
...WHILE ITS GOVERNMENT *CONTRACTS* AND TECHNOLOGICAL *RESEARCH* HAVE MADE MANY OF OUR OWN ADVANCES POSSIBLE.
BUT ABOUT ONE THING, MAGNETO IS RIGHT. THERE *IS* ROOM FOR ONLY *ONE* OF US IN THE *INNER CIRCLE!*
I SAY THAT HE MUST *GO*... IF I AM TO *REMAIN!*
A STALEMATE... *ONE VOTE* FOR EACH. AS OUR *WHITE QUEEN*, MISS FROST, WHAT IS YOUR STAND?
DO YOU REMEMBER, SHAW, WHEN THE LORDS CARDINAL FACED THE MUTANT-SLAYER ROBOT, *NIMROD?*
IN THAT BATTLE, *LELAND* AND *VON ROEHM* WERE KILLED.
WHAT CAN NIMROD HAVE BEEN, BUT SOME HIGHLY ADVANCED, ROGUE *SENTINEL?*
IMPOSSIBLE! AND EVEN IF IT WERE SO, MISS FROST, THEIR *CARELESSNESS* CAUSED THEIR DEATHS. NOT I.
THEIR DEATHS WERE WASTEFUL... AND DID NOTHING TO ADVANCE OUR CAUSE.
I MUST SIDE WITH *MAGNETO* ON THIS, SHAW. I VOTE THAT HE *REMAIN!*
YOU, SELENE, WILL CAST THE *DECIDING* VOTE. VOTE WITH SHAW, AND HE REMAINS! VOTE WITH US, AND HE IS *BLACK KING* NO MORE!
SHAW AND I HAVE CLASHED BEFORE... AND YET--


WITHOUT SHAW'S INTERFERENCE, YOU WOULD HAVE A *FREE HAND* AMONG YOUR *AMAZONIAN* HOLDINGS.
AMAZONIAN--? BUT AMARA LIVES THERE NOW AND SELENE--
SHHHH!
HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT WE *KNOW* ABOUT AMARA! DON'T GIVE US *AWAY.*
A FREE HAND IN THE AMAZON...
...AND AMONG THE *LORDS CARDINAL*, AS WELL, MISS FROST. THOUGH *THAT* IS NOT WHAT YOU PLAN.
FOOLS!
YOU WILL TURN ON EACH OTHER AS YOU TURNED ON ME, TO REND AND TEAR UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT!
THROUGH MAGNUS'S *BIGOTRY,* YOU WILL FORCE YOUR NIGHTMARE VISION ON OUR KIND...AND ON THE WORLD!
YOU FORGET THAT I REMAIN A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH...AND THAT *SHAW INDUSTRIES* WILL BE AT MY BACK.
AS WE HAVE BACKED *YOU,* ALL ALONG!

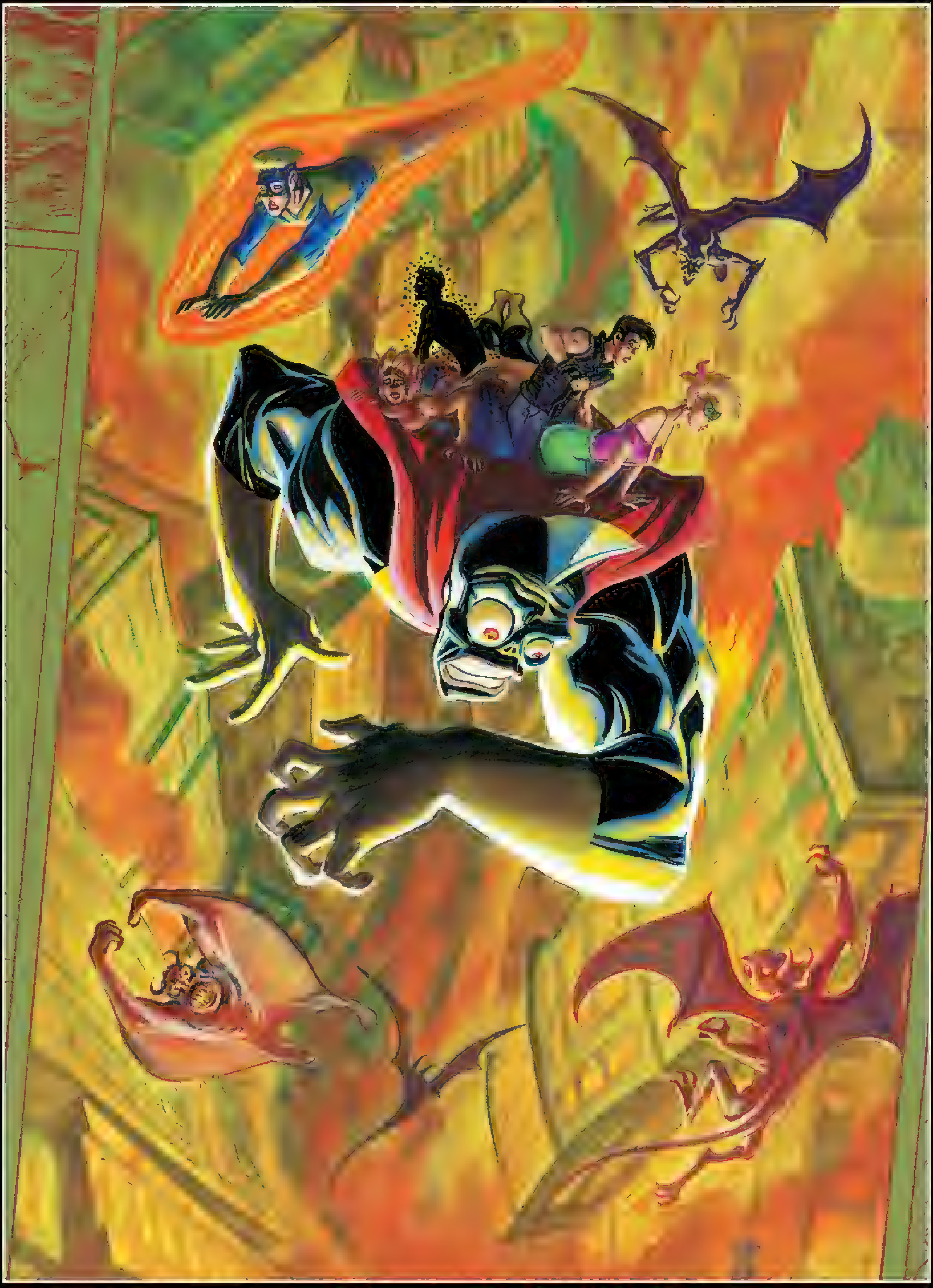

AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT. OUR NUMBER, FURTHER REDUCED. WHO WILL BE OUR NEW *BLACK KING?*
DO WE TRULY NEED *ANOTHER* IN OUR INNER CIRCLE, SELENE? THE *FEWER* OF US WHO RULE...
...THE LESS POWER MUST BE *SHARED OUT* AMONG US.
I PROPOSE THAT I FUNCTION AS BOTH *BLACK* AND *WHITE* KING... AS *GREY KING,* IF YOU WILL!
FOR THOSE WHO SEE THE WORLD IN TERMS OF *BLACK* AND *WHITE,* OF *GOOD* AND *EVIL...*
...ARE DESTINED FOR *DISAPPOINTMENT*... AND *DESTRUCTION.*
WE KNOW YOU MEAN *US...*
...WELL, YOU CAN *FORGET* IT. WE *KNOW* NOW THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THE *BAD GUYS!*
AND THAT MAKES *YOU* THE ONE WHO'S DOOMED TO *DESTRUCTION!*
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE *DOING,* MAGNETO. IT'S *WRONG!*
AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO US...
...SELFRIENDS WILL *NEVER* JOIN YOU!
IF THAT IS THE WAY YOU FEEL--


--THEN YOU ARE FREE TO *GO!*
WHAT?!
YOU ARE *YOUNG!* I ASK ONLY THAT YOU *REMEMBER* WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED HERE.
YOU HAVE BEEN SO DAZZLED BY XAVIER'S DREAM OF GOODNESS AND PEACE...
...THAT YOU FAIL TO SEE THE WORLD AS IT LIES BEFORE YOU.
BUT AS THE DECADE *PROGRESSES*, AS THE WARS *BEGIN*, YOU WILL LEARN THAT I AM RIGHT.
THOSE WHO FAIL TO SEIZE POWER...AND QUICKLY... WILL BE LOST.
IN TIME, SOME OF YOU WILL RETURN, TO JOIN ME FREELY IN MY CONQUEST. KNOW, NOW, THAT YOU WILL BE FREELY *WELCOME*.
NEVER! WE'LL *NEVER* JOIN YOU.
YOU, BOY, WILL BE THE *FIRST*.
NO!


HE'S NEEDLING YOU ON PURPOSE, BOBBY. DON'T FALL FOR IT!
COME ON, LET'S GET *OUTTA* HERE.
BUT MISS FROST HAS STUDENTS, TOO! THE *HELLIONS* AT THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR *THEM*?
THEY'RE GONNA LET SELENE LOOSE IN *SOUTH AMERICA!* WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR *AMARA*--?
WE CAN'T LET HIM GET *AWAY* WITH THIS, *CAN* WE?
NO, AH DON'T KNOW HOW, BOBBY, BUT AH PROMISE YOU...WE'LL FIND A WAY TA *STOP* 'EM!
THEY *KNOW*, MAGNUS... I READ IT IN THEIR MINDS!
SOMEHOW, THEY KNOW ABOUT OUR CONNECTION WITH AMARA AND HER FATHER'S KINGDOM...
...THOUGH THEY HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA WHAT IT IS WE PLAN THERE.
SO I *SUSPECTED*, ALL ALONG, BUT IT IS GOOD TO HAVE CONFIRMATION.
CUT OFF FROM THE SCHOOL THAT TRAINED THEM ...SUSPECTING SOME VILLAINY FROM US...
...SURELY THEY WILL *GO* THERE AND TRY VALIANTLY TO *STOP* US AND TO SAVE THEIR FRIEND.
THEIR EFFORTS WILL WEAKEN SELENE *FOR* US...
...AND SOON THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE *QUEEN*... AS THERE IS NOW *ONE KING*.

NEXT• ISSUE• **X-FACTOR!** AND THE SUB-MARINER!

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BEGINNING!



MARVEL: PORTRAITS OF A UNIVERSE #4 (1995) PINUP:
"THE NEW MUTANTS IN INFERNO: *NEW MUTANTS #72*"
ART BY BRET BLEVINS, COMMENTARY BY SCOTT LOBDELL

"I LOVE THIS PICTURE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE I'M A MAJOR BRET BLEVINS FAN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE EVERYTHING I MIGHT HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT IS ALREADY RIGHT THERE IN THEIR FACES. THE X-MEN IN GENERAL, AND THE NEW MUTANTS IN PARTICULAR, HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ONE MOMENT TO THE NEXT. JUST CHECK OUT THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES, AND YOU'LL SEE THAT EVEN AFTER DISCOVERING THEIR YOUNG BODIES HAVE MUTAGENICALLY ALTERED TO A STATE WHERE THEY ARE MUTANTS, YOUNG X-MEN IN TRAINING IF YOU WILL, THE SURPRISES HAVEN'T STOPPED. ONE MORNING YOU WAKE UP WITH A SENTINEL STARING YOU IN THE FACE, THE NEXT YOU'RE FLYING OVER A DEMONIZED MANHATTAN LANDSCAPE (IS THAT REDUNDANT?)! AND YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD TROUBLE FINDING A DATE FOR THE PROM?!"

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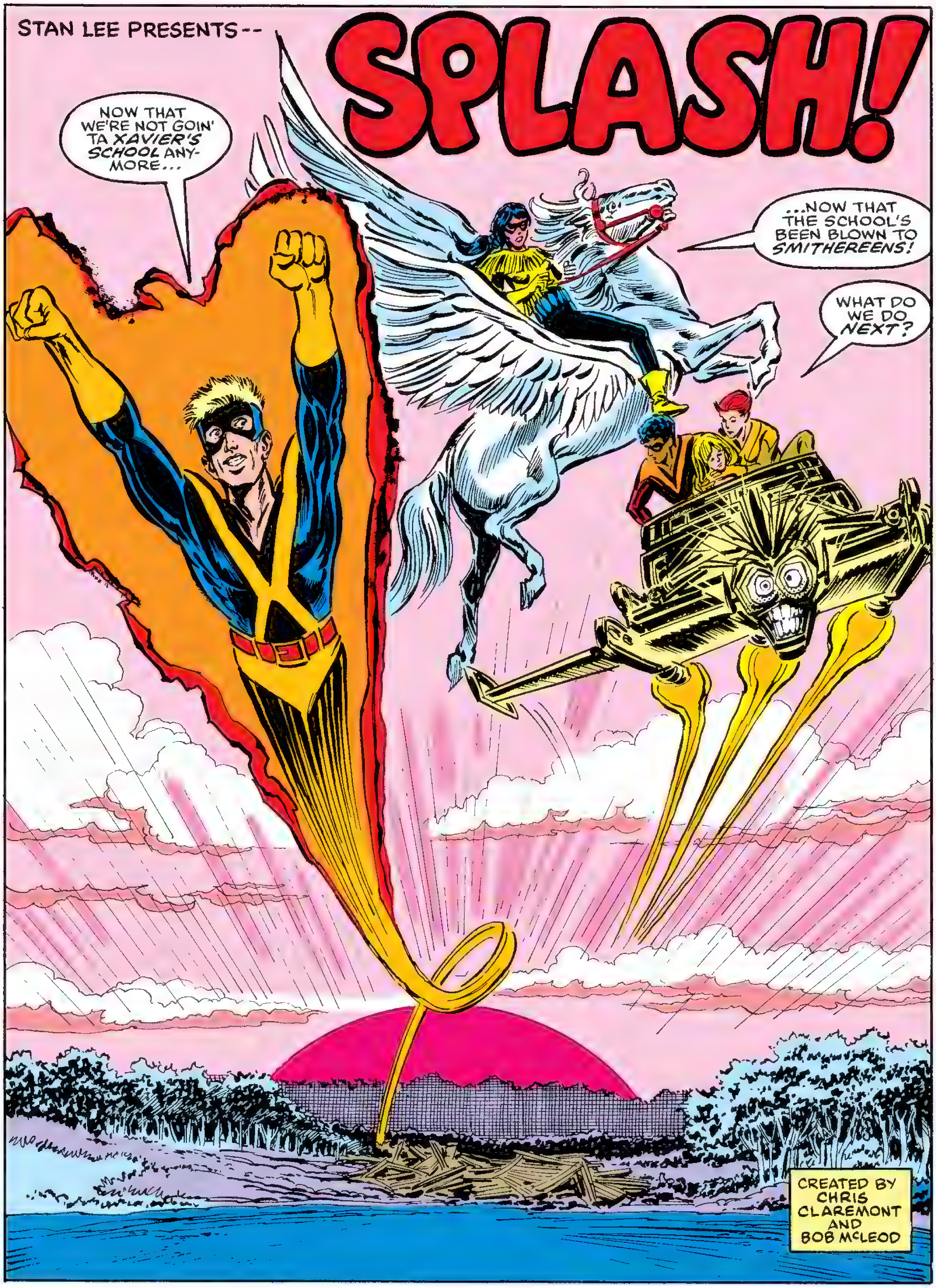
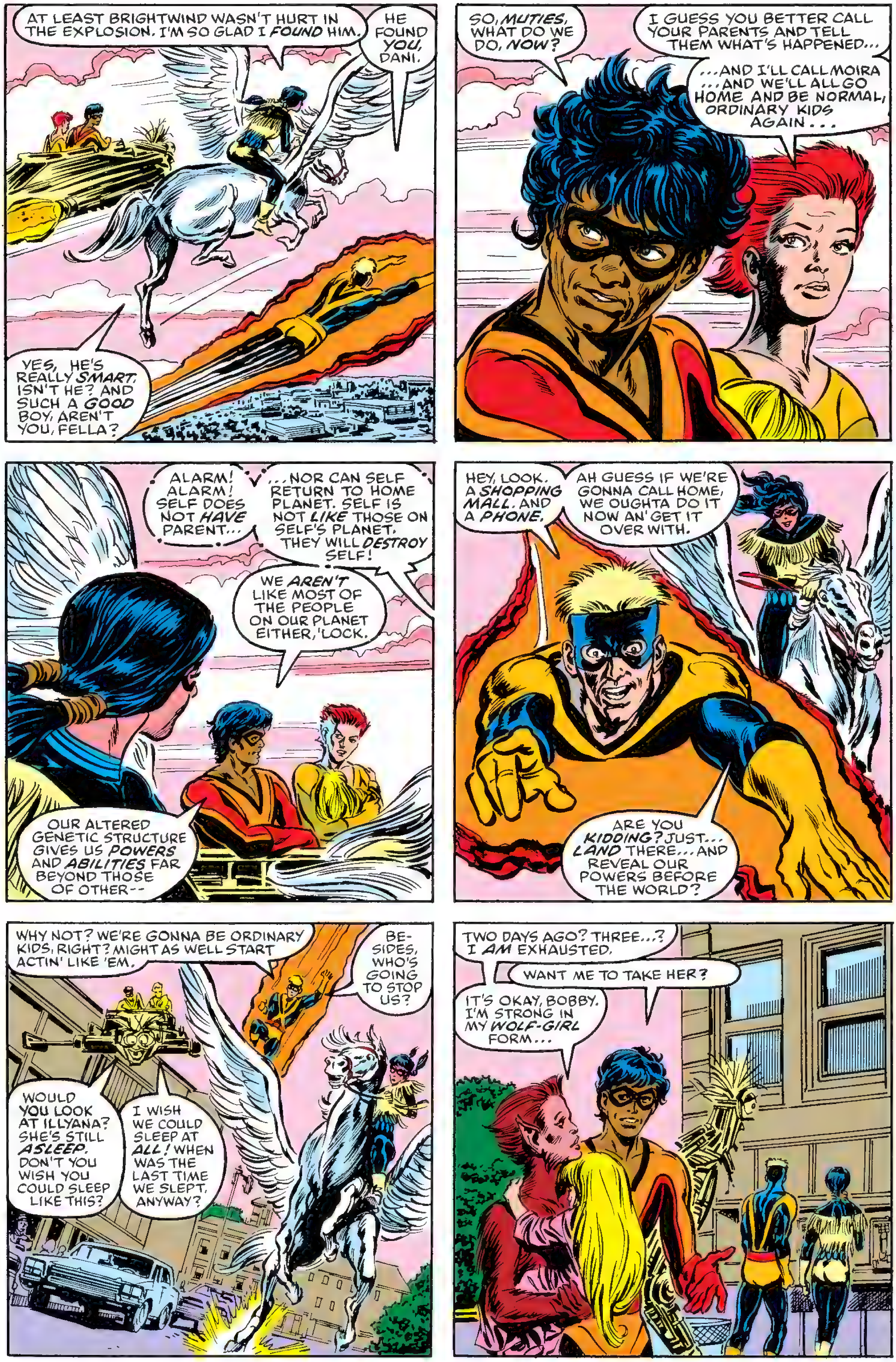
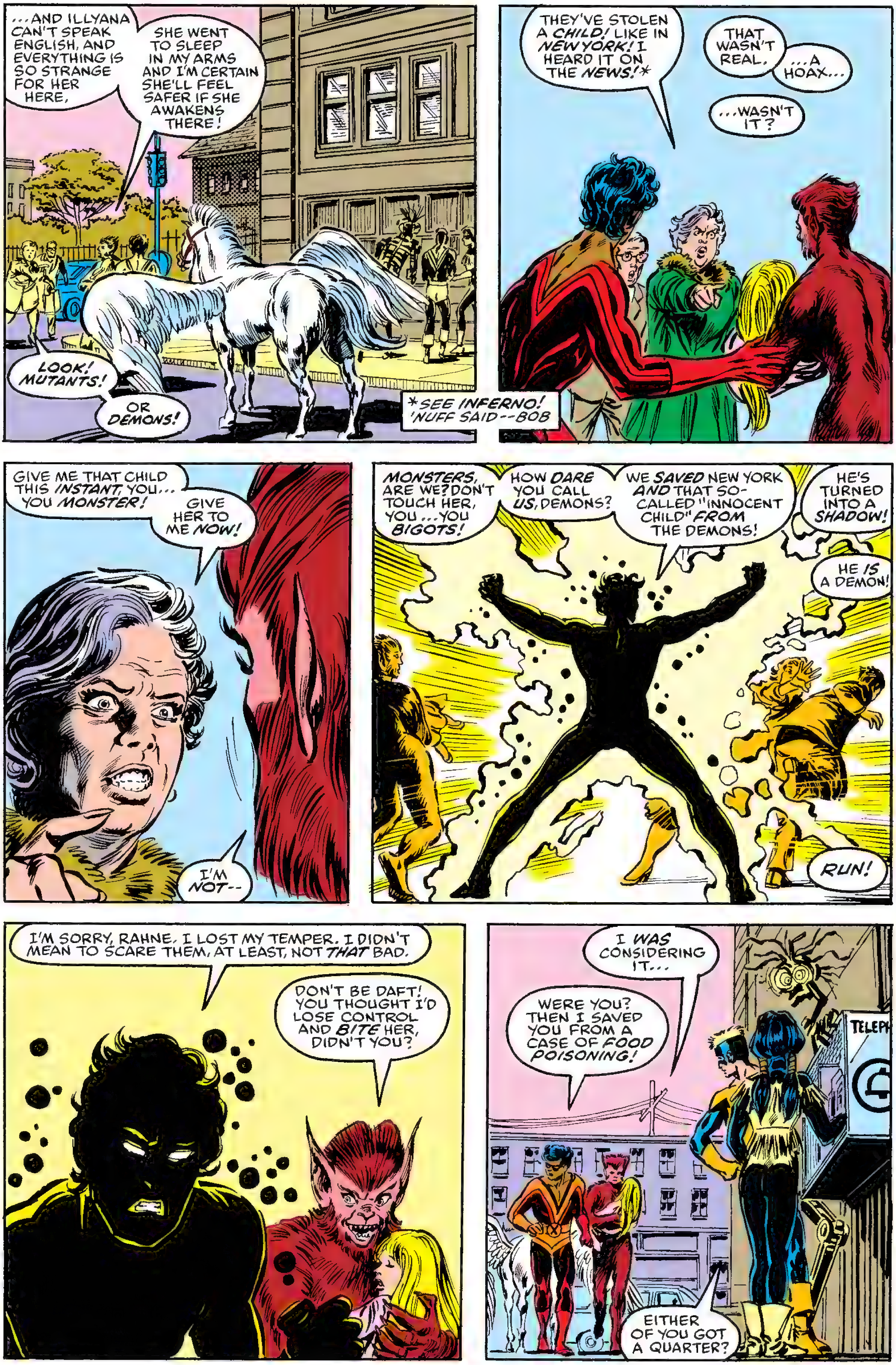
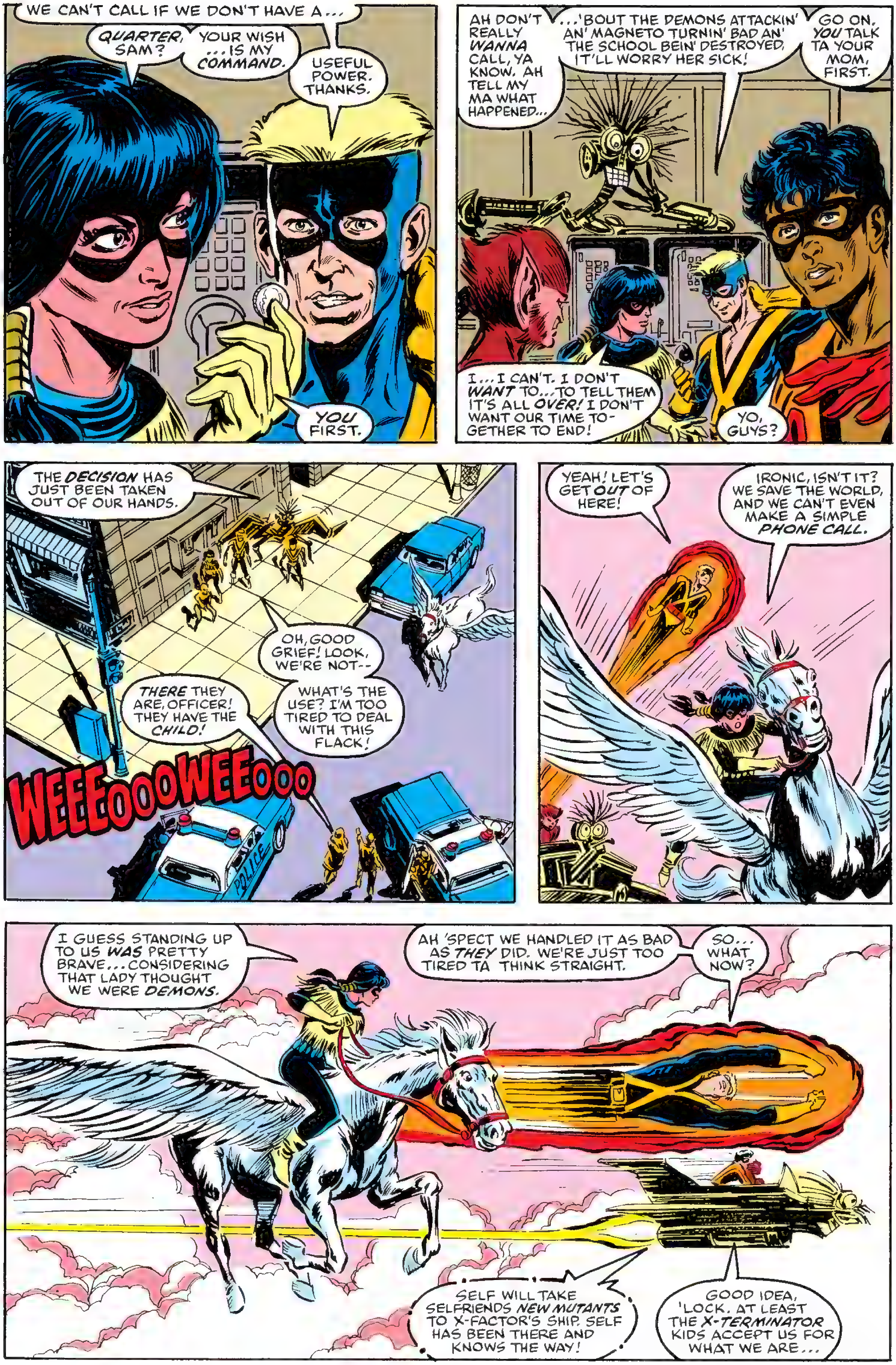
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE ◆ NEW
MUTANTS®
FEATURING: PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER!
THE MONSTER FROM BELOW!
BUCKLER & McLEOD

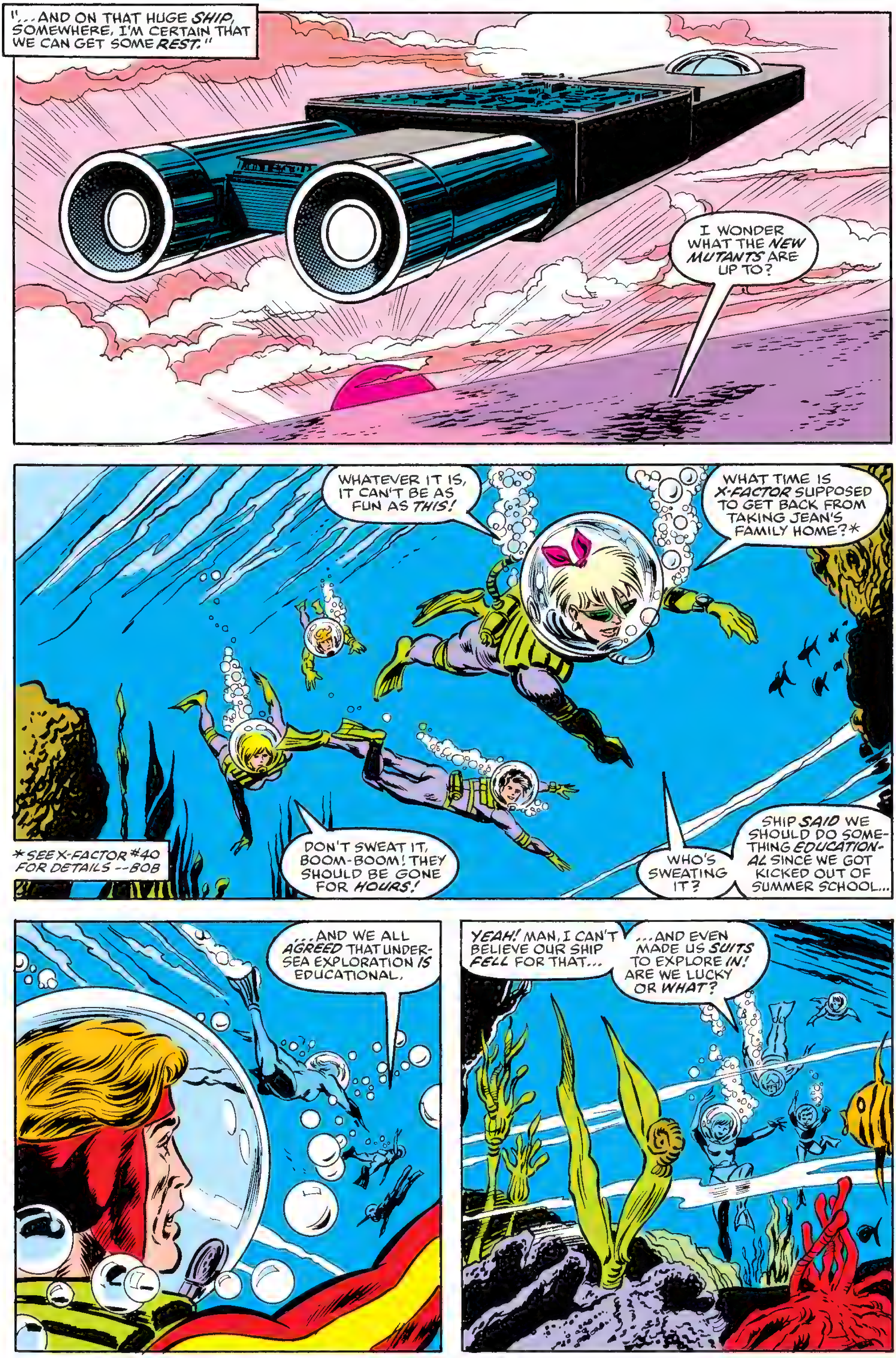

STAN LEE PRESENTS--
SPLASH!
NOW THAT WE'RE NOT GOIN' TA *XAVIER'S SCHOOL* ANYMORE...
...NOW THAT THE SCHOOL'S BEEN BLOWN TO *SMITHEREENS!*
WHAT DO WE DO *NEXT?*
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD

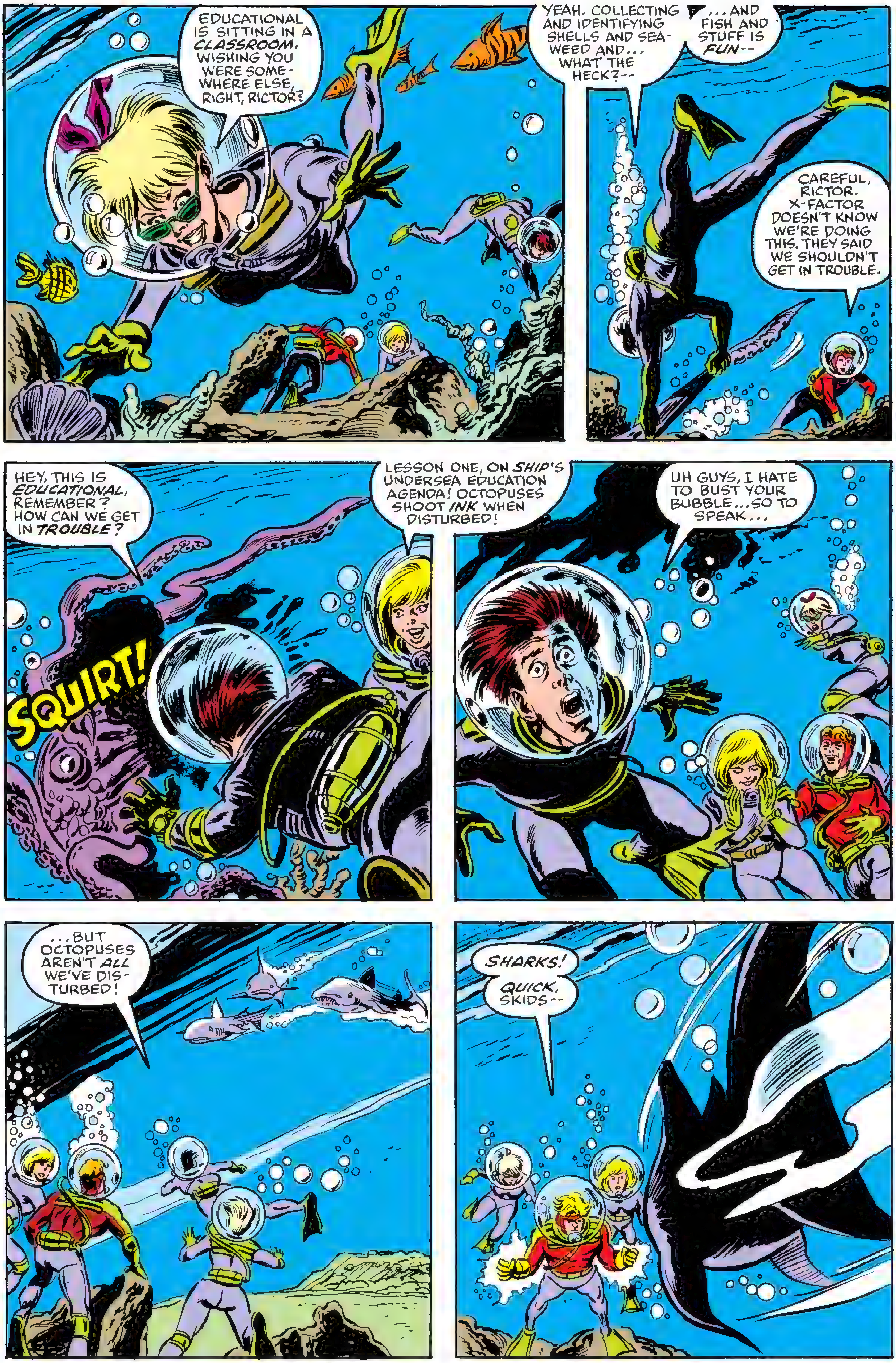
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · RICH BUCKLER PENCILER · TOM PALMER FINISHER · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

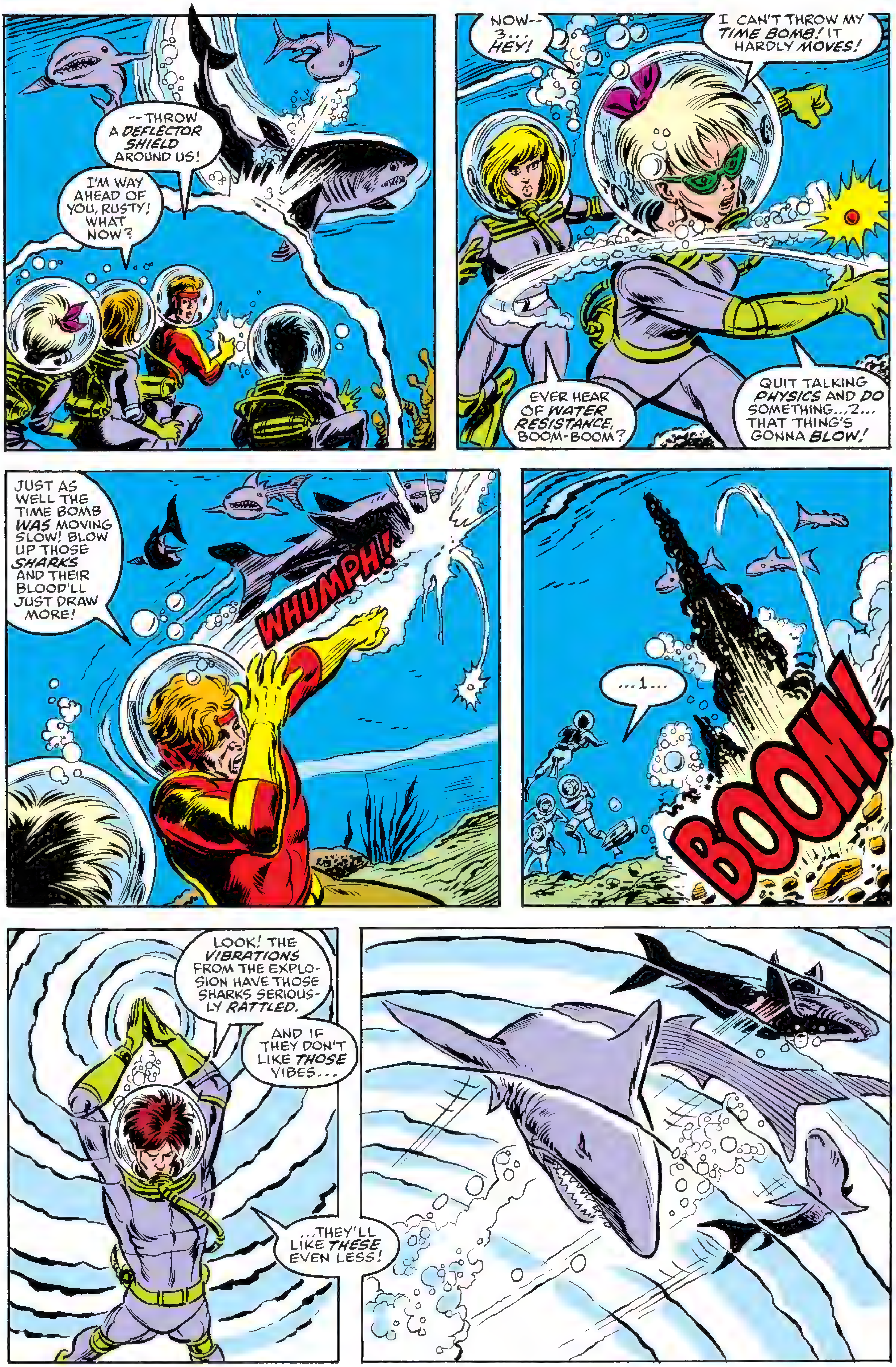

AT LEAST BRIGHTWIND WASN'T HURT IN THE EXPLOSION. I'M SO GLAD I *FOUND* HIM.
HE FOUND *YOU*, DANI.
YES, HE'S REALLY *SMART*, ISN'T HE? AND SUCH A *GOOD* BOY, AREN'T YOU, FELLA?
SO, *MUTIES*, WHAT DO WE DO, *NOW*?
I GUESS YOU BETTER CALL YOUR PARENTS AND TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED...
...AND I'LL CALL MOIRA ...AND WE'LL ALL GO HOME AND BE NORMAL, ORDINARY KIDS AGAIN...
ALARM! ALARM! SELF DOES NOT *HAVE* PARENT...
...NOR CAN SELF RETURN TO HOME PLANET. SELF IS NOT *LIKE* THOSE ON SELF'S PLANET. THEY WILL *DESTROY* SELF!
WE *AREN'T* LIKE MOST OF THE PEOPLE ON OUR PLANET EITHER, 'LOCK.
OUR ALTERED GENETIC STRUCTURE GIVES US *POWERS* AND *ABILITIES* FAR BEYOND THOSE OF OTHER--
HEY, LOOK. A *SHOPPING MALL*. AND A *PHONE*.
AH GUESS IF WE'RE GONNA CALL HOME, WE OUGHTA DO IT NOW AN' GET IT OVER WITH.
ARE YOU *KIDDING*? JUST... *LAND* THERE... AND REVEAL OUR POWERS BEFORE THE WORLD?
WHY NOT? WE'RE GONNA BE ORDINARY KIDS, RIGHT? MIGHT AS WELL START ACTIN' LIKE 'EM.
BESIDES, WHO'S GOING TO STOP US?
WOULD YOU LOOK AT ILLYANA? SHE'S STILL *ASLEEP*. DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD SLEEP LIKE THIS?
I WISH WE COULD SLEEP AT *ALL*! WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE SLEPT, ANYWAY?
TWO DAYS AGO? THREE...? I *AM* EXHAUSTED.
WANT ME TO TAKE HER?
IT'S OKAY, BOBBY. I'M STRONG IN MY *WOLF-GIRL* FORM...

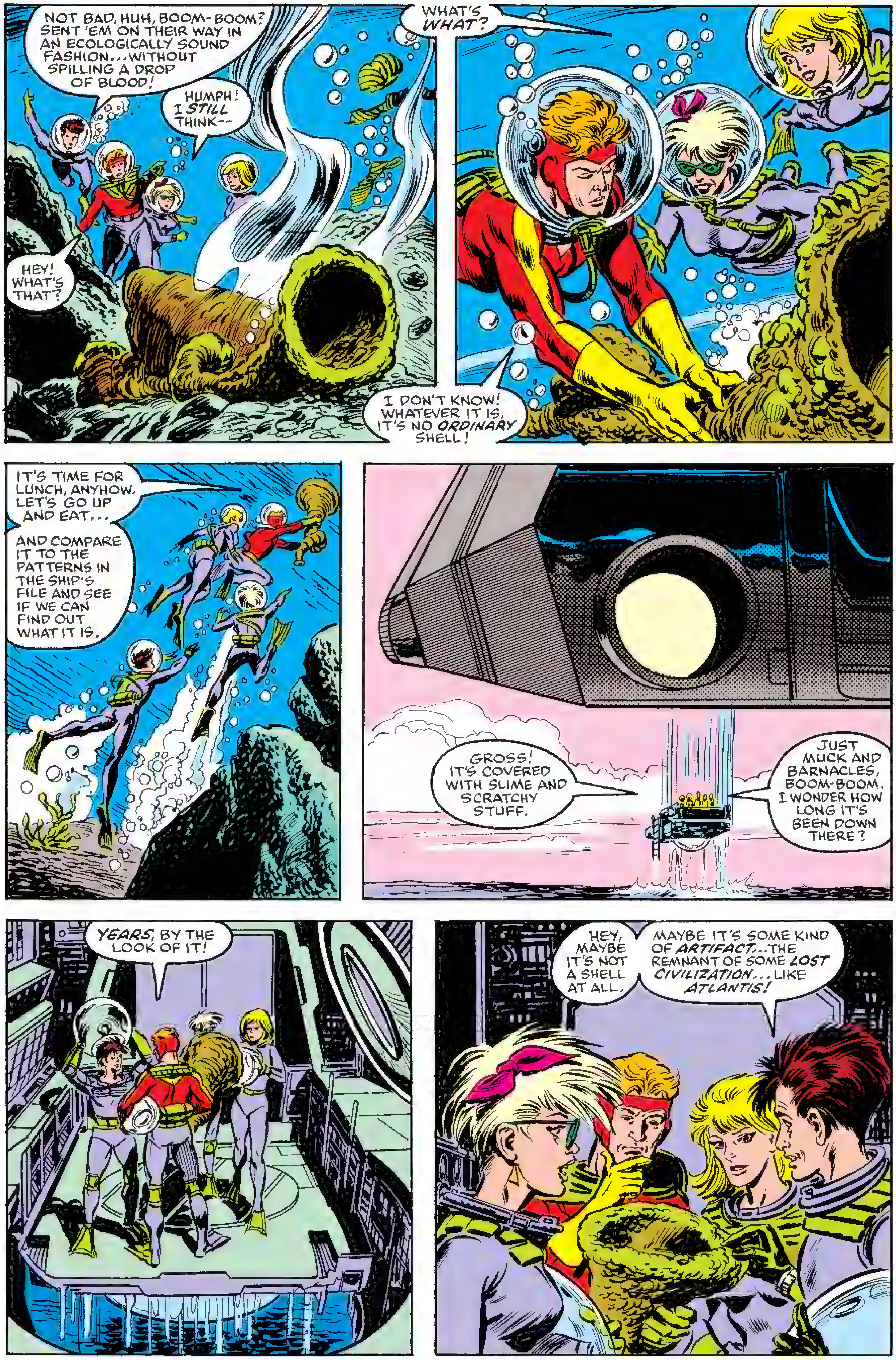

...AND ILLYANA CAN'T SPEAK ENGLISH, AND EVERYTHING IS SO STRANGE FOR HER HERE.
SHE WENT TO SLEEP IN MY ARMS AND I'M CERTAIN SHE'LL FEEL SAFER IF SHE AWAKENS THERE!
LOOK! MUTANTS!
OR DEMONS!
*SEE INFERNO! 'NUFF SAID--BOB
THEY'VE STOLEN A CHILD! LIKE IN NEW YORK! I HEARD IT ON THE NEWS!*
THAT WASN'T REAL.
...A HOAX...
...WASN'T IT?
GIVE ME THAT CHILD THIS INSTANT, YOU... YOU MONSTER!
GIVE HER TO ME NOW!
I'M NOT--
MONSTERS, ARE WE? DON'T TOUCH HER, YOU ...YOU BIGOTS!
HOW DARE YOU CALL US, DEMONS?
WE SAVED NEW YORK AND THAT SO-CALLED "INNOCENT CHILD" FROM THE DEMONS!
HE'S TURNED INTO A SHADOW!
HE IS A DEMON!
RUN!
I'M SORRY, RAHNE. I LOST MY TEMPER. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE THEM, AT LEAST, NOT THAT BAD.
DON'T BE DAFT! YOU THOUGHT I'D LOSE CONTROL AND BITE HER, DIDN'T YOU?
I WAS CONSIDERING IT...
WERE YOU? THEN I SAVED YOU FROM A CASE OF FOOD POISONING!
TELEPH
EITHER OF YOU GOT A QUARTER?

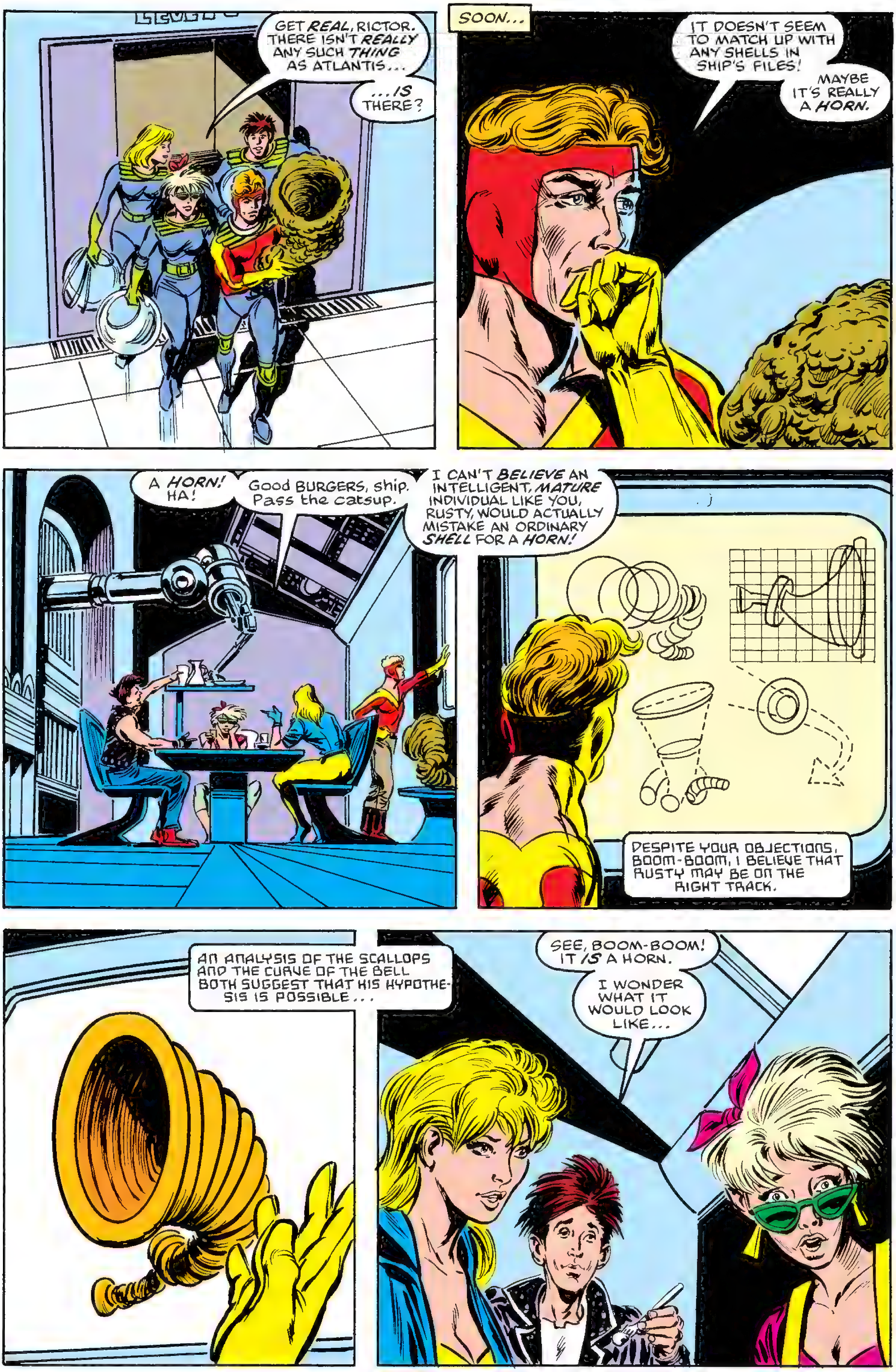

WE CAN'T CALL IF WE DON'T HAVE A...
QUARTER, SAM?
YOUR WISH ...IS MY COMMAND.
USEFUL POWER. THANKS.
YOU FIRST.
AH DON'T REALLY WANNA CALL, YA KNOW. AH TELL MY MA WHAT HAPPENED...
...'BOUT THE DEMONS ATTACKIN' AN' MAGNETO TURNIN' BAD AN' THE SCHOOL BEIN' DESTROYED, IT'LL WORRY HER SICK!
GO ON. YOU TALK TA YOUR MOM, FIRST.
I... I CAN'T. I DON'T WANT TO... TO TELL THEM IT'S ALL OVER! I DON'T WANT OUR TIME TOGETHER TO END!
YO, GUYS?
THE DECISION HAS JUST BEEN TAKEN OUT OF OUR HANDS.
OH, GOOD GRIEF! LOOK, WE'RE NOT--
THERE THEY ARE, OFFICER! THEY HAVE THE CHILD!
WHAT'S THE USE? I'M TOO TIRED TO DEAL WITH THIS FLACK!
WEEEOOOWEEOOO
POLICE
YEAH! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
IRONIC, ISN'T IT? WE SAVE THE WORLD, AND WE CAN'T EVEN MAKE A SIMPLE PHONE CALL.
I GUESS STANDING UP TO US WAS PRETTY BRAVE... CONSIDERING THAT LADY THOUGHT WE WERE DEMONS.
AH 'SPECT WE HANDLED IT AS BAD AS THEY DID. WE'RE JUST TOO TIRED TA THINK STRAIGHT.
SO... WHAT NOW?
SELF WILL TAKE SELFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS TO X-FACTOR'S SHIP. SELF HAS BEEN THERE AND KNOWS THE WAY!
GOOD IDEA, 'LOCK. AT LEAST THE X-TERMINATOR KIDS ACCEPT US FOR WHAT WE ARE...

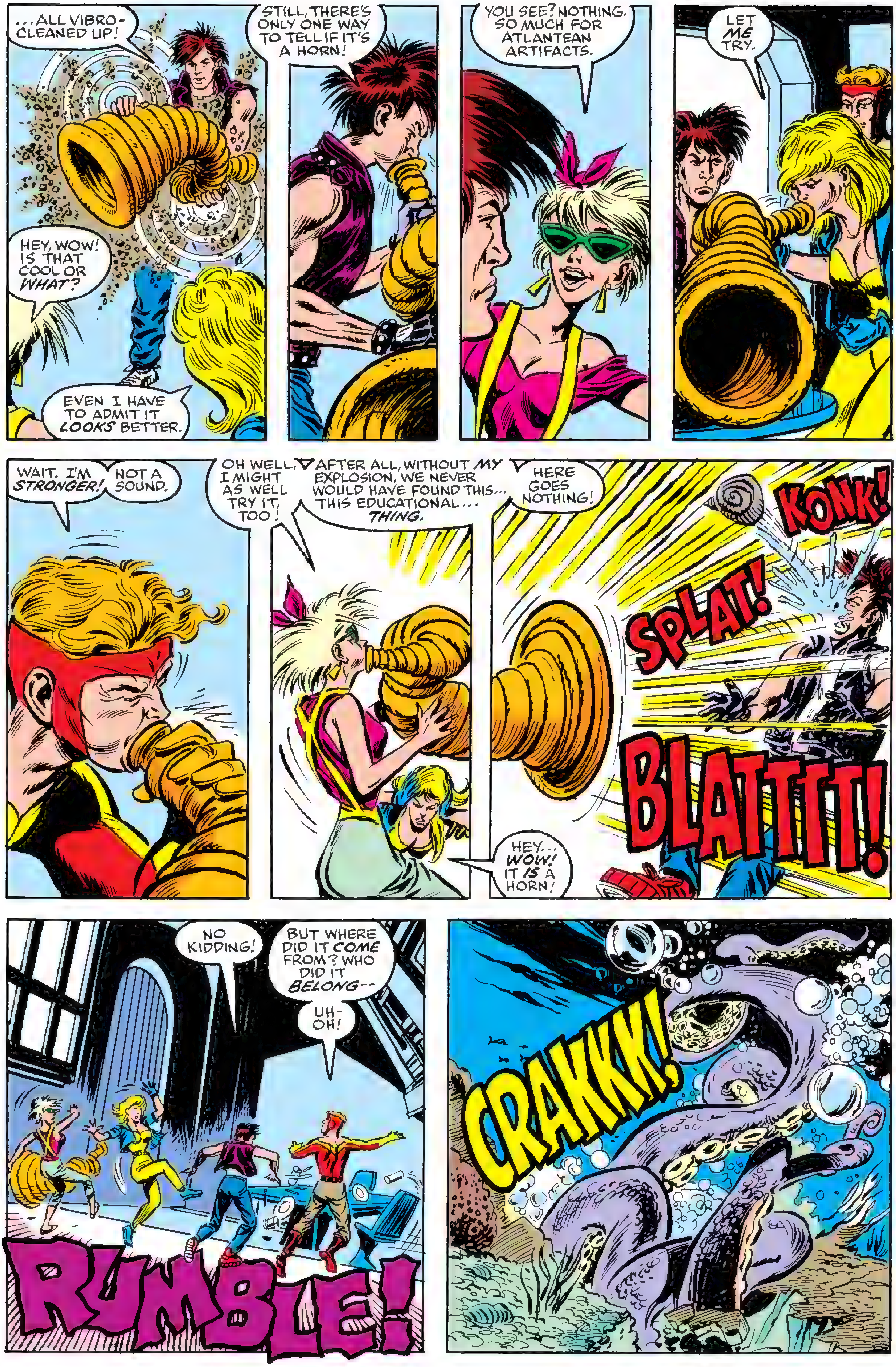

"...AND ON THAT HUGE *SHIP*, SOMEWHERE, I'M CERTAIN THAT WE CAN GET SOME *REST*."
I WONDER WHAT THE *NEW MUTANTS* ARE UP TO?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT CAN'T BE AS FUN AS *THIS!*
WHAT TIME IS *X-FACTOR* SUPPOSED TO GET BACK FROM TAKING JEAN'S FAMILY HOME?*
DON'T SWEAT IT, BOOM-BOOM! THEY SHOULD BE GONE FOR *HOURS!*
WHO'S SWEATING IT?
SHIP *SAID* WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING *EDUCATIONAL* SINCE WE GOT KICKED OUT OF SUMMER SCHOOL...
*SEE X-FACTOR #40 FOR DETAILS --BOB
...AND WE ALL *AGREED* THAT UNDERSEA EXPLORATION *IS* EDUCATIONAL.
YEAH! MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR SHIP *FELL* FOR THAT...
...AND EVEN MADE US *SUITS* TO EXPLORE *IN!* ARE WE LUCKY OR *WHAT?*

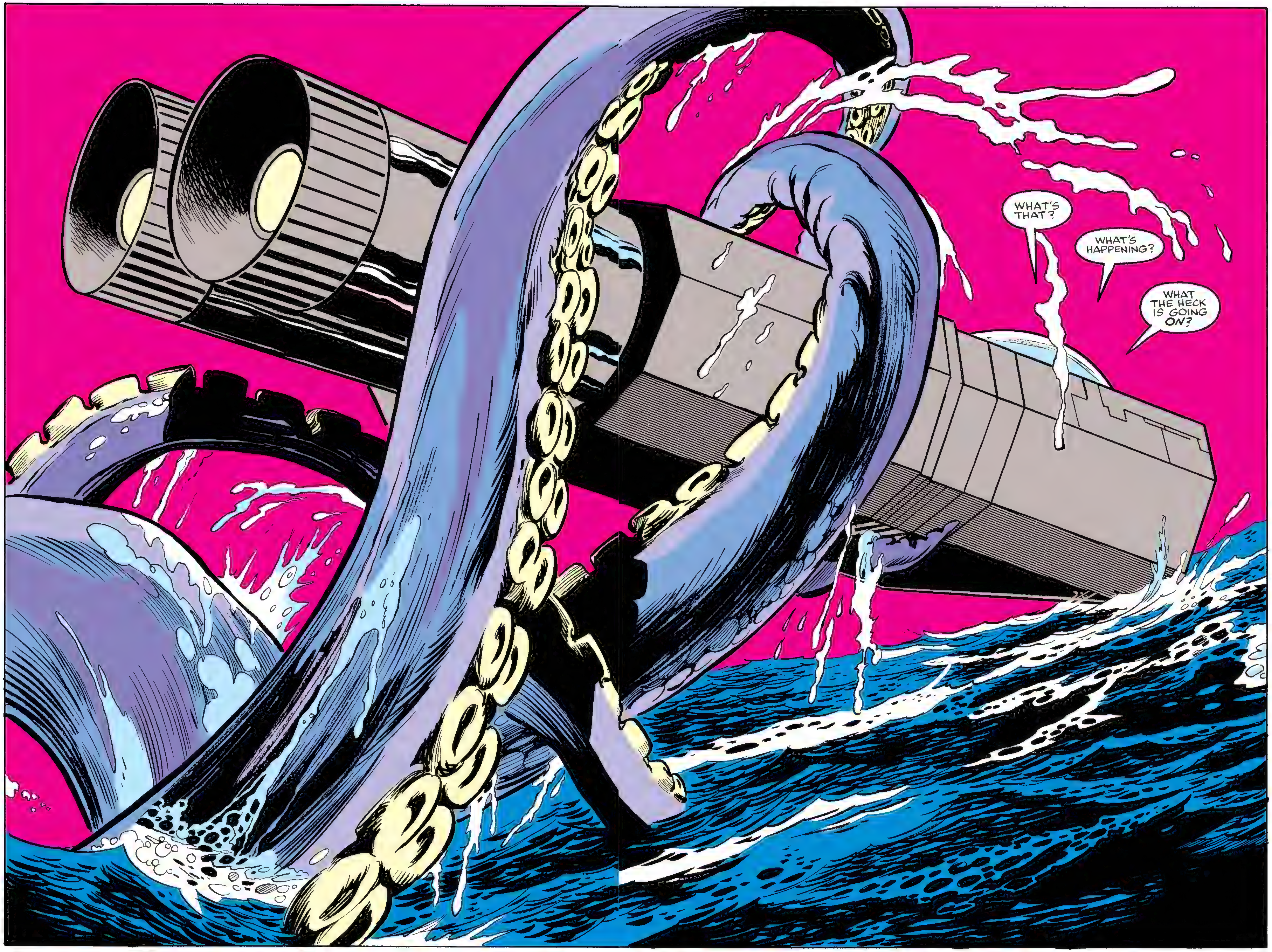

EDUCATIONAL IS SITTING IN A *CLASSROOM*, WISHING YOU WERE SOMEWHERE ELSE, RIGHT, RICTOR?
YEAH. COLLECTING AND IDENTIFYING SHELLS AND SEAWEED AND... WHAT THE HECK?--
...AND FISH AND STUFF IS *FUN*--
CAREFUL, RICTOR. X-FACTOR DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE DOING THIS. THEY SAID WE SHOULDN'T GET IN TROUBLE.
HEY, THIS IS *EDUCATIONAL*, REMEMBER? HOW CAN WE GET IN *TROUBLE*?
LESSON ONE, ON *SHIP*'S UNDERSEA EDUCATION AGENDA! OCTOPUSES SHOOT *INK* WHEN DISTURBED!
SQUIRT!
UH GUYS, I HATE TO BUST YOUR BUBBLE...SO TO SPEAK...
...BUT OCTOPUSES AREN'T *ALL* WE'VE DISTURBED!
SHARKS!
QUICK, SKIDS--

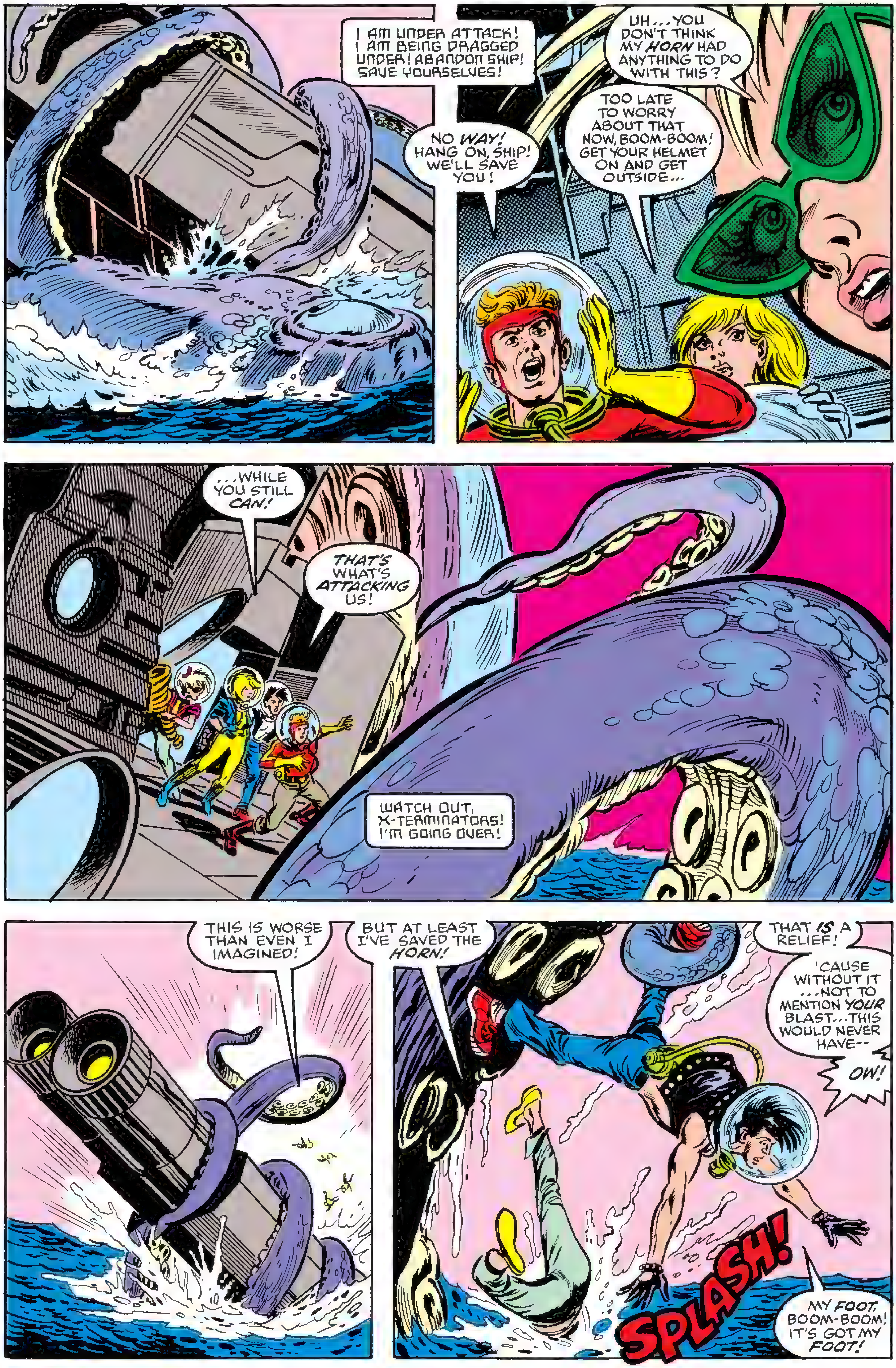

--THROW A DEFLECTOR SHIELD AROUND US!
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU, RUSTY! WHAT NOW?
NOW-- 3... HEY!
I CAN'T THROW MY TIME BOMB! IT HARDLY MOVES!
EVER HEAR OF WATER RESISTANCE, BOOM-BOOM?
QUIT TALKING PHYSICS AND DO SOMETHING...2... THAT THING'S GONNA BLOW!
JUST AS WELL THE TIME BOMB WAS MOVING SLOW! BLOW UP THOSE SHARKS AND THEIR BLOOD'LL JUST DRAW MORE!
WHUMPH!
...1...
BOOM!
LOOK! THE VIBRATIONS FROM THE EXPLOSION HAVE THOSE SHARKS SERIOUSLY RATTLED.
AND IF THEY DON'T LIKE THOSE VIBES...
...THEY'LL LIKE THESE EVEN LESS!

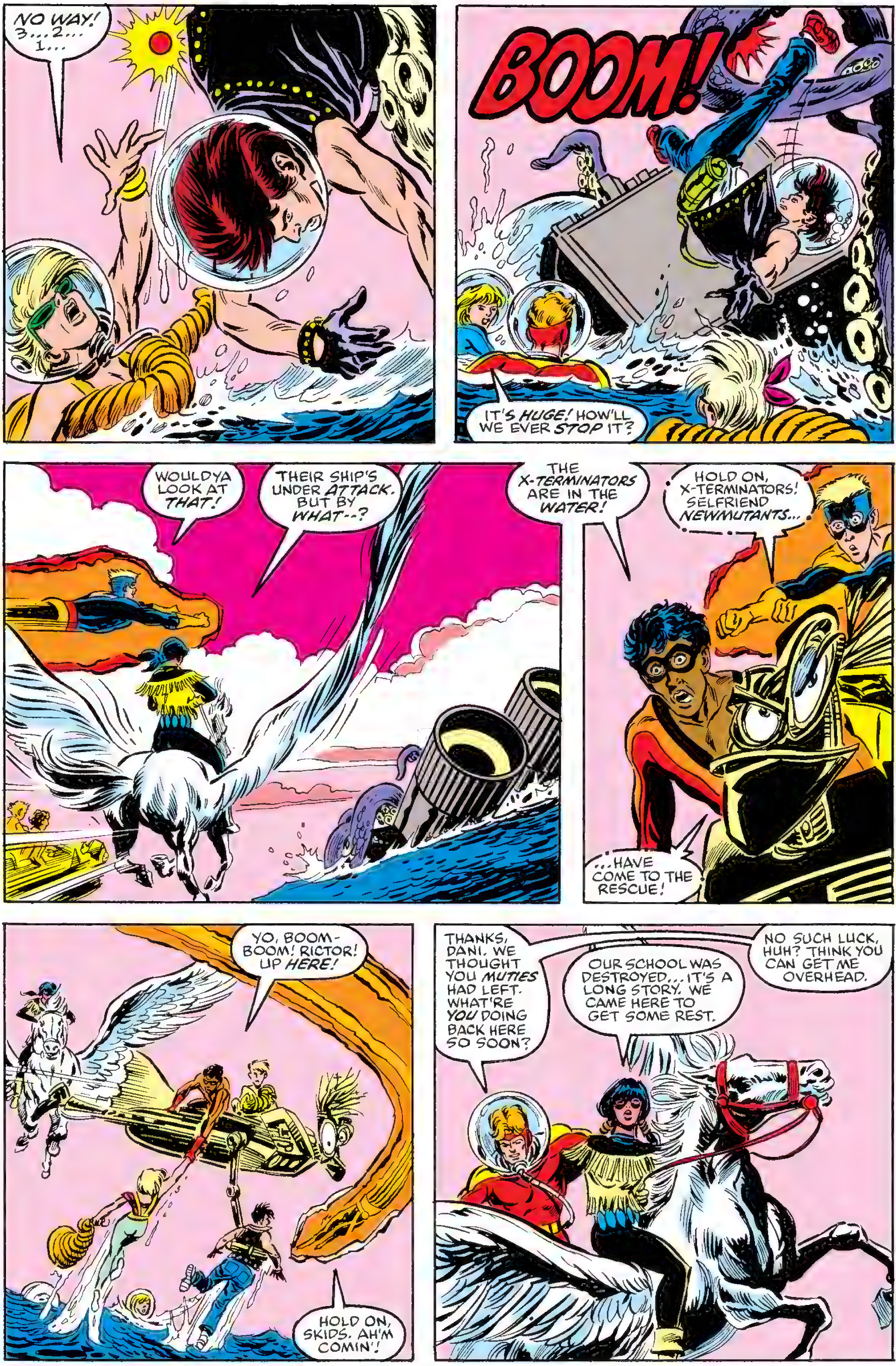

NOT BAD, HUH, BOOM-BOOM? SENT 'EM ON THEIR WAY IN AN ECOLOGICALLY SOUND FASHION... WITHOUT SPILLING A DROP OF BLOOD!
HUMPH! I *STILL* THINK--
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT'S *WHAT*?
I DON'T KNOW! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NO *ORDINARY* SHELL!
IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH, ANYHOW. LET'S GO UP AND EAT...
AND COMPARE IT TO THE PATTERNS IN THE SHIP'S FILE AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.
GROSS! IT'S COVERED WITH SLIME AND SCRATCHY STUFF.
JUST MUCK AND BARNACLES, BOOM-BOOM. I WONDER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN DOWN THERE?
YEARS, BY THE LOOK OF IT!
HEY, MAYBE IT'S NOT A SHELL AT ALL.
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF *ARTIFACT*... THE REMNANT OF SOME *LOST CIVILIZATION*... LIKE *ATLANTIS*!

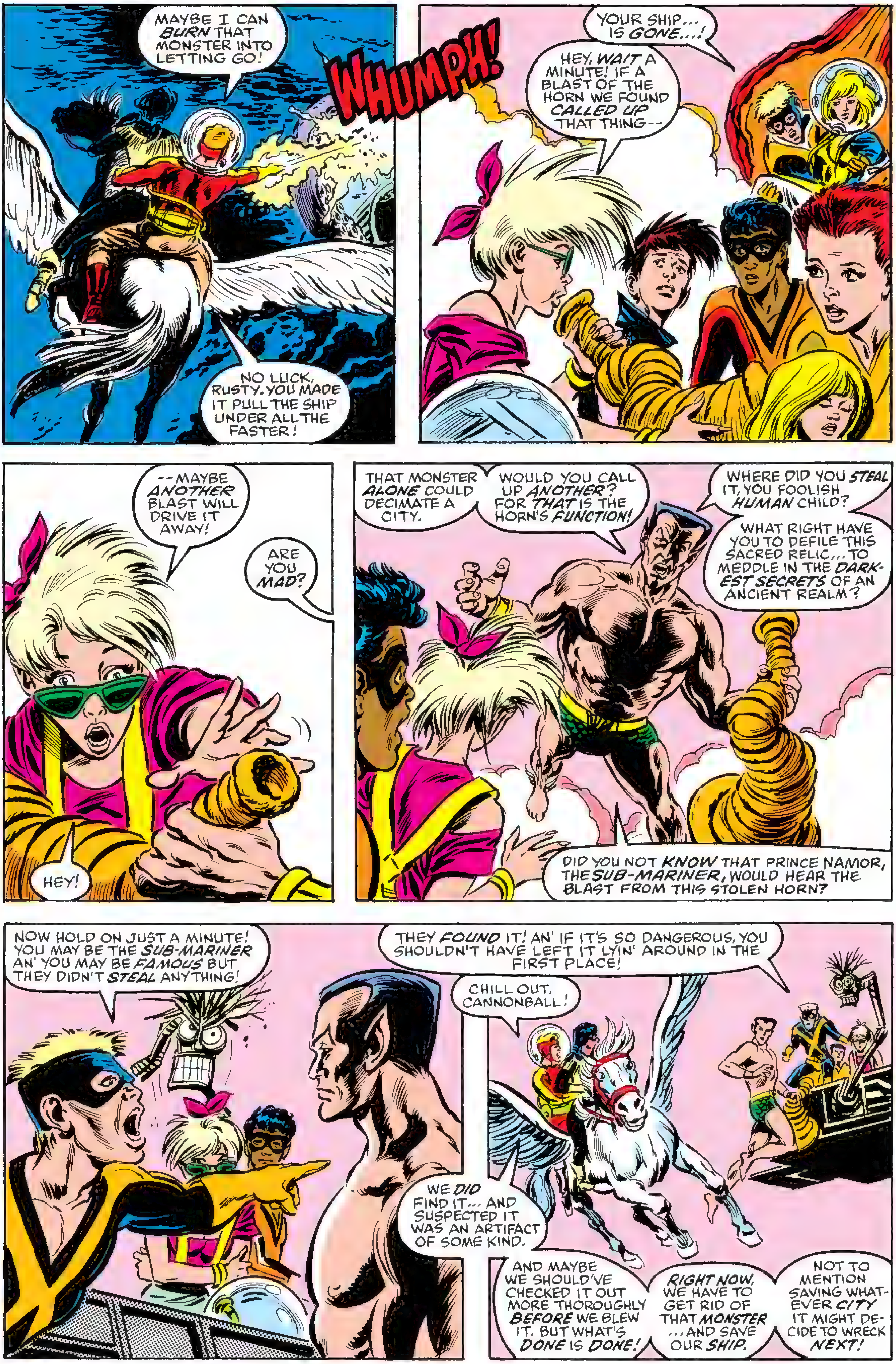

GET REAL, RICTOR. THERE ISN'T REALLY ANY SUCH THING AS ATLANTIS...
...IS THERE?
SOON...
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATCH UP WITH ANY SHELLS IN SHIP'S FILES!
MAYBE IT'S REALLY A HORN.
A HORN! HA!
Good BURGERS, ship. Pass the catsup.
I CAN'T BELIEVE AN INTELLIGENT, MATURE INDIVIDUAL LIKE YOU, RUSTY, WOULD ACTUALLY MISTAKE AN ORDINARY SHELL FOR A HORN!
DESPITE YOUR OBJECTIONS, BOOM-BOOM, I BELIEVE THAT RUSTY MAY BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
AN ANALYSIS OF THE SCALLOPS AND THE CURVE OF THE BELL BOTH SUGGEST THAT HIS HYPOTHESIS IS POSSIBLE...
SEE, BOOM-BOOM! IT IS A HORN.
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE...

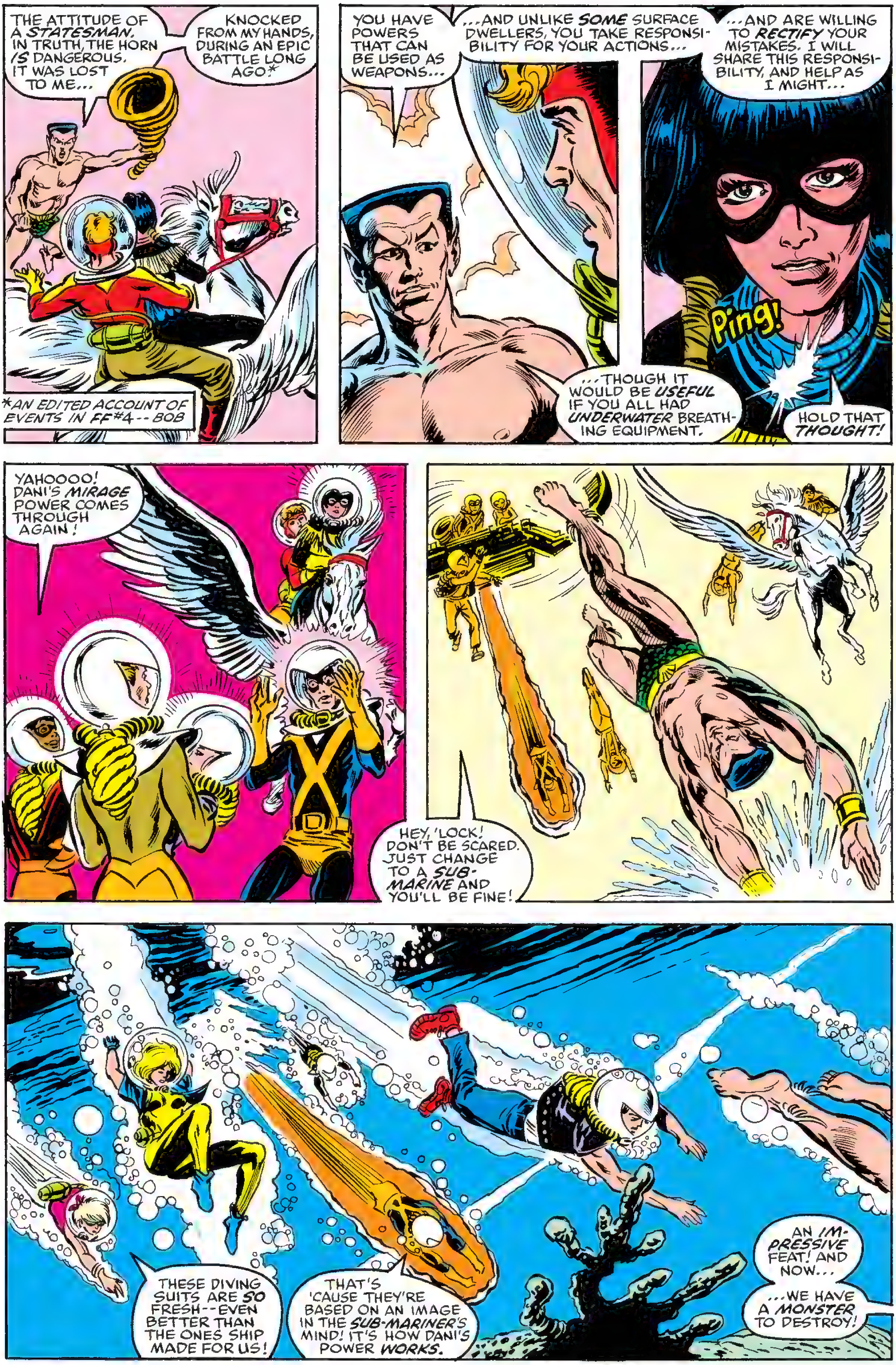

...ALL VIBRO-CLEANED UP!
HEY, WOW! IS THAT COOL OR *WHAT?*
EVEN I HAVE TO ADMIT IT *LOOKS* BETTER.
STILL, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO TELL IF IT'S A HORN!
YOU SEE? NOTHING. SO MUCH FOR ATLANTEAN ARTIFACTS.
LET *ME* TRY.
WAIT. I'M *STRONGER!*
NOT A SOUND.
OH WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL TRY IT, TOO!
AFTER ALL, WITHOUT *MY* EXPLOSION, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND THIS... THIS EDUCATIONAL... *THING.*
HERE GOES NOTHING!
KONK!
SPLAT!
BLATTTT!
HEY... *WOW!* IT *IS* A HORN!
NO KIDDING!
BUT WHERE DID IT *COME* FROM? WHO DID IT *BELONG*--
UH-OH!
RUMBLE!
CRAKKK!

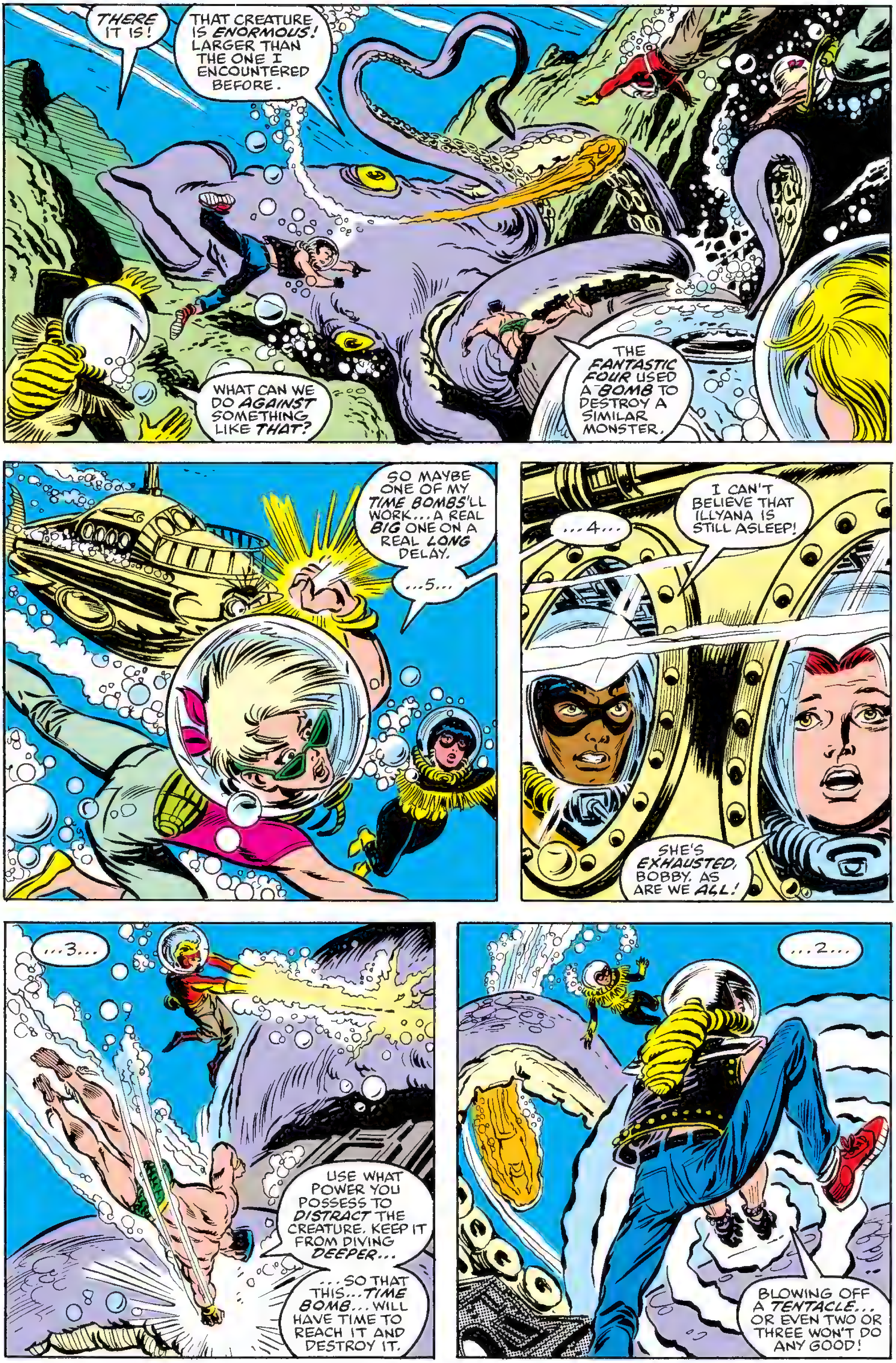

WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING *ON*?

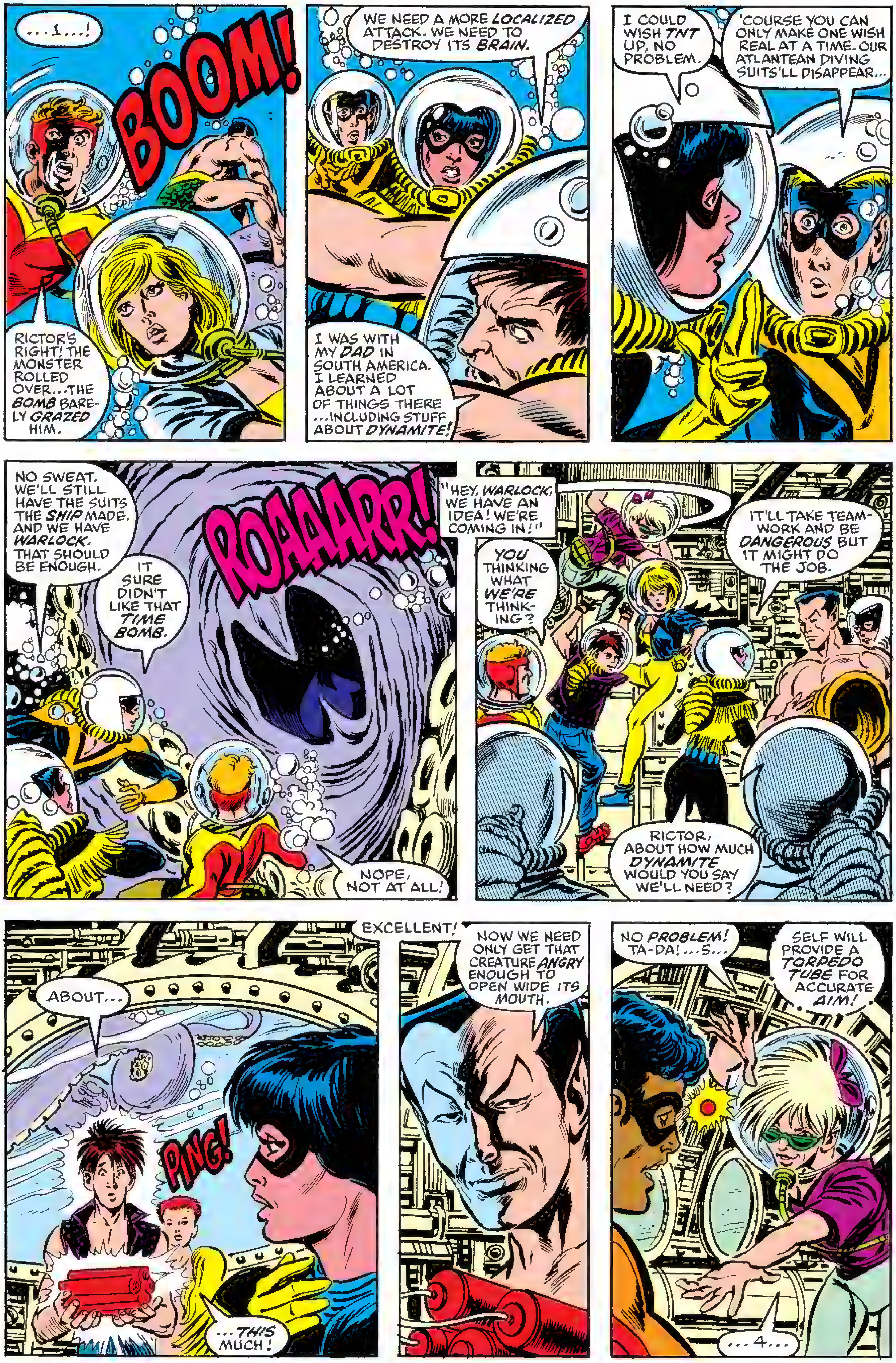

I AM UNDER ATTACK! I AM BEING DRAGGED UNDER! ABANDON SHIP! SAVE YOURSELVES!
UH... YOU DON'T THINK MY *HORN* HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?
NO *WAY!* HANG ON, SHIP! WE'LL SAVE YOU!
TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, BOOM-BOOM! GET YOUR HELMET ON AND GET OUTSIDE...
...WHILE YOU STILL *CAN!*
THAT'S WHAT'S *ATTACKING* US!
WATCH OUT, X-TERMINATORS! I'M GOING OVER!
THIS IS WORSE THAN EVEN I IMAGINED!
BUT AT LEAST I'VE SAVED THE *HORN!*
THAT *IS* A RELIEF!
'CAUSE WITHOUT IT ...NOT TO MENTION *YOUR* BLAST... THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE--
OW!
SPLASH!
MY *FOOT*, BOOM-BOOM! IT'S GOT MY *FOOT!*

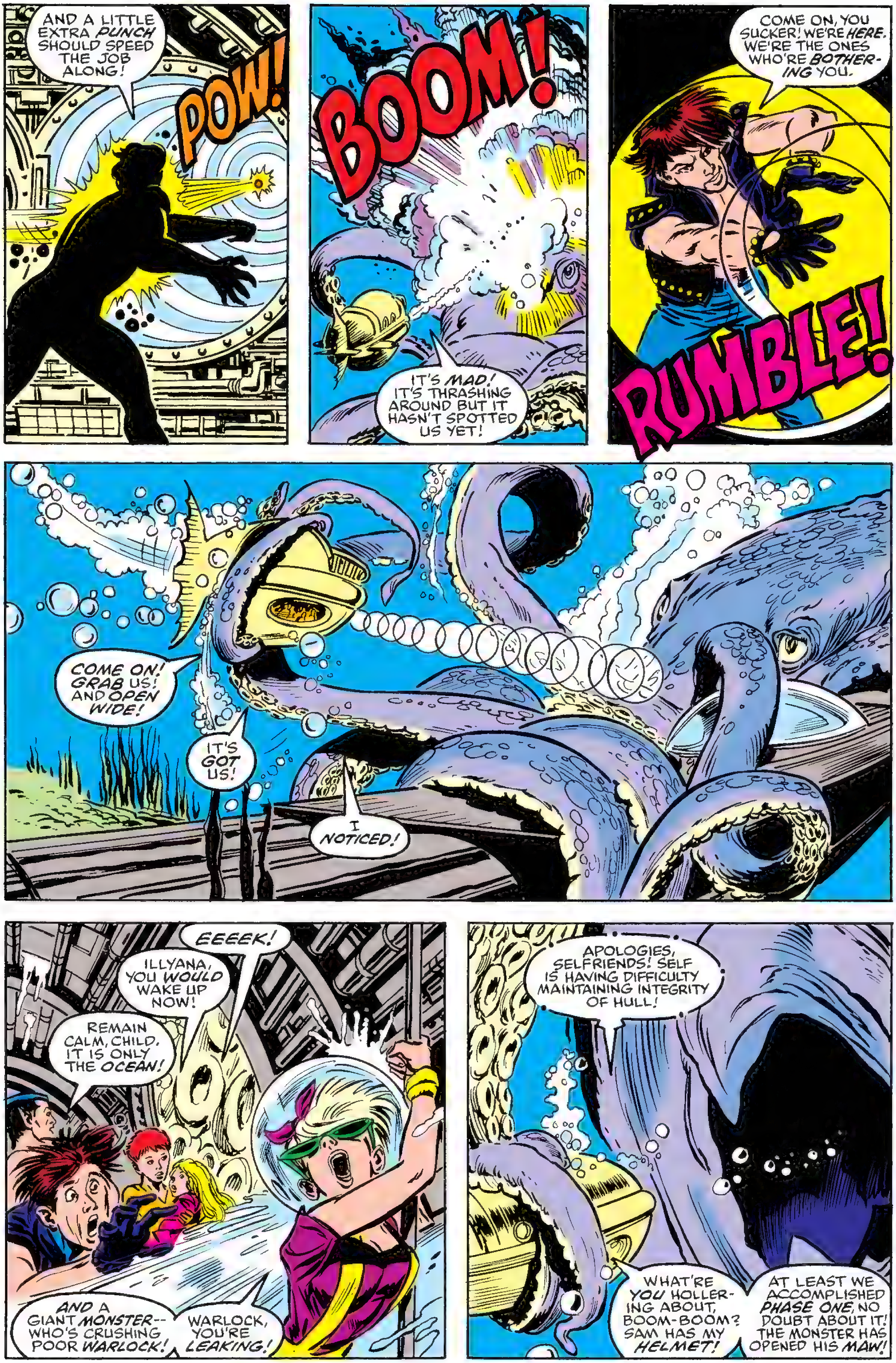

NO WAY! 3...2... 1...
BOOM!
IT'S HUGE! HOW'LL WE EVER STOP IT?
WOULDYA LOOK AT THAT!
THEIR SHIP'S UNDER ATTACK. BUT BY WHAT--?
THE X-TERMINATORS ARE IN THE WATER!
HOLD ON, X-TERMINATORS! SELFRIEND NEWMUTANTS...
...HAVE COME TO THE RESCUE!
YO, BOOM-BOOM! RICTOR! UP HERE!
HOLD ON, SKIDS. AH'M COMIN'!
THANKS, DANI. WE THOUGHT YOU MUTIES HAD LEFT. WHAT'RE YOU DOING BACK HERE SO SOON?
OUR SCHOOL WAS DESTROYED... IT'S A LONG STORY. WE CAME HERE TO GET SOME REST.
NO SUCH LUCK, HUH? THINK YOU CAN GET ME OVERHEAD.

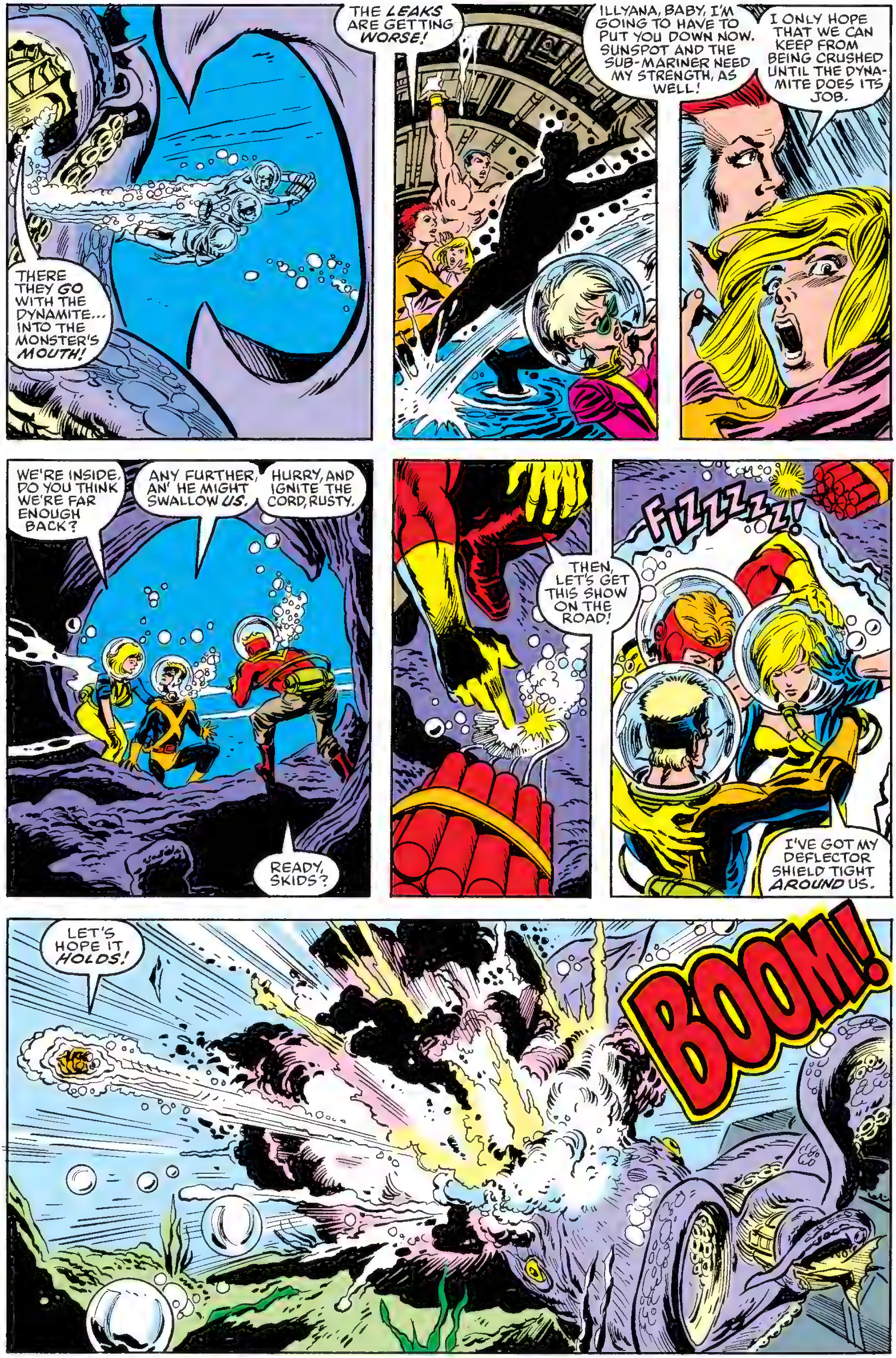

MAYBE I CAN BURN THAT MONSTER INTO LETTING GO!
WHUMPH!
NO LUCK, RUSTY. YOU MADE IT PULL THE SHIP UNDER ALL THE FASTER!
YOUR SHIP... IS GONE...!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! IF A BLAST OF THE HORN WE FOUND CALLED UP THAT THING--
--MAYBE ANOTHER BLAST WILL DRIVE IT AWAY!
ARE YOU MAD?
HEY!
THAT MONSTER ALONE COULD DECIMATE A CITY.
WOULD YOU CALL UP ANOTHER? FOR THAT IS THE HORN'S FUNCTION!
WHERE DID YOU STEAL IT, YOU FOOLISH HUMAN CHILD?
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO DEFILE THIS SACRED RELIC... TO MEDDLE IN THE DARKEST SECRETS OF AN ANCIENT REALM?
DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER, WOULD HEAR THE BLAST FROM THIS STOLEN HORN?
NOW HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE! YOU MAY BE THE SUB-MARINER AN' YOU MAY BE FAMOUS BUT THEY DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!
THEY FOUND IT! AN' IF IT'S SO DANGEROUS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT IT LYIN' AROUND IN THE FIRST PLACE!
CHILL OUT, CANNONBALL!
WE DID FIND IT... AND SUSPECTED IT WAS AN ARTIFACT OF SOME KIND.
AND MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE CHECKED IT OUT MORE THOROUGHLY BEFORE WE BLEW IT. BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT MONSTER ...AND SAVE OUR SHIP.
NOT TO MENTION SAVING WHATEVER CITY IT MIGHT DECIDE TO WRECK NEXT!

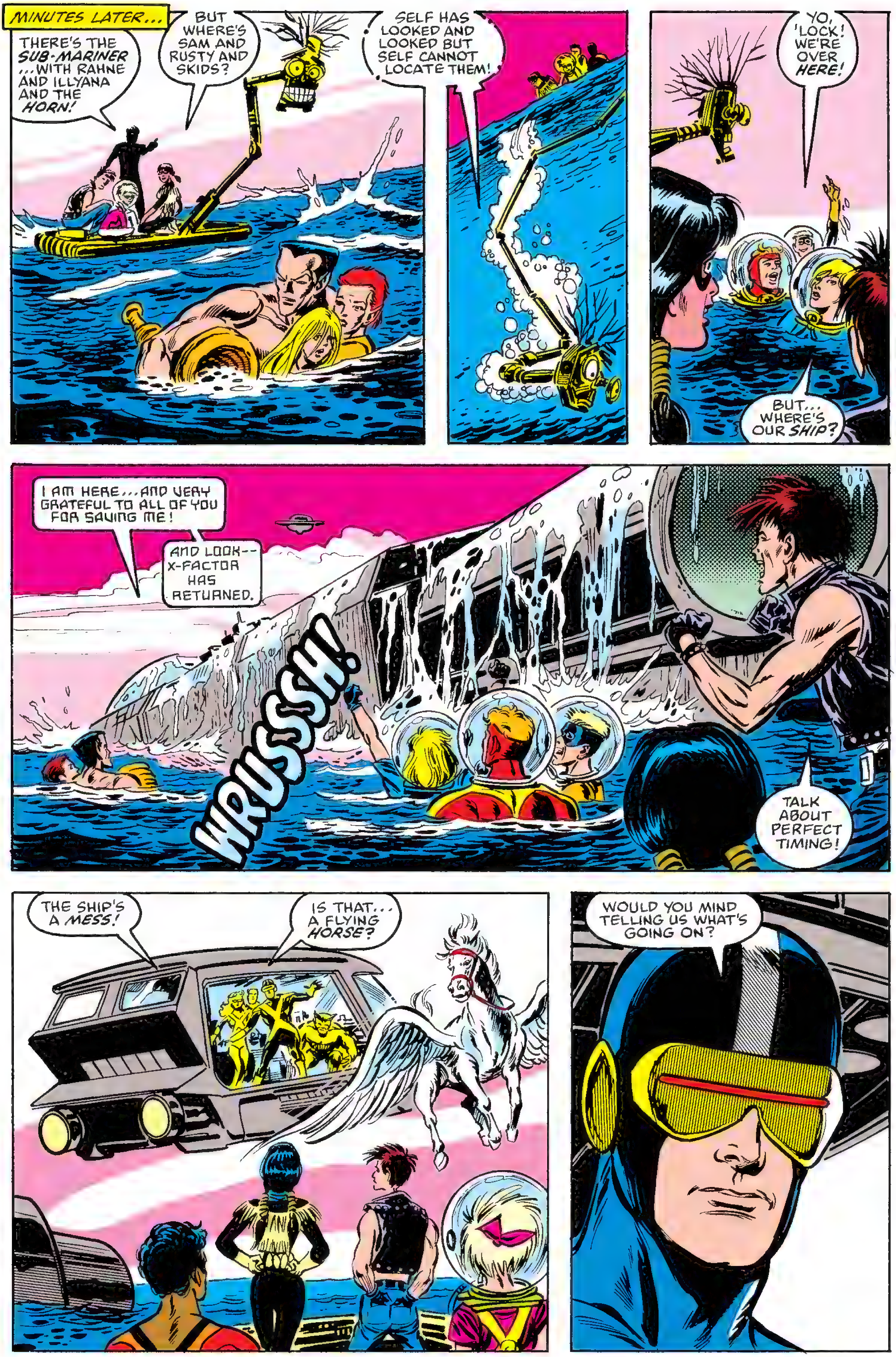

THE ATTITUDE OF A *STATESMAN.* IN TRUTH, THE HORN *IS* DANGEROUS. IT WAS LOST TO ME...
KNOCKED FROM MY HANDS, DURING AN EPIC BATTLE LONG AGO*
*AN EDITED ACCOUNT OF EVENTS IN FF #4 -- BOB
YOU HAVE POWERS THAT CAN BE USED AS WEAPONS...
...AND UNLIKE *SOME* SURFACE DWELLERS, YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS...
...AND ARE WILLING TO *RECTIFY* YOUR MISTAKES. I WILL SHARE THIS RESPONSIBILITY, AND HELP AS I MIGHT...
...THOUGH IT WOULD BE *USEFUL* IF YOU ALL HAD *UNDERWATER* BREATHING EQUIPMENT.
Ping!
HOLD THAT *THOUGHT!*
YAHOOOO! DANI'S *MIRAGE* POWER COMES THROUGH AGAIN!
HEY, 'LOCK! DON'T BE SCARED. JUST CHANGE TO A *SUB-MARINE* AND YOU'LL BE FINE!
THESE DIVING SUITS ARE *SO* FRESH--EVEN BETTER THAN THE ONES SHIP MADE FOR US!
THAT'S 'CAUSE THEY'RE BASED ON AN IMAGE IN THE *SUB-MARINER'S* MIND! IT'S HOW DANI'S POWER *WORKS.*
AN *IMPRESSIVE* FEAT! AND NOW...
...WE HAVE A *MONSTER* TO DESTROY!

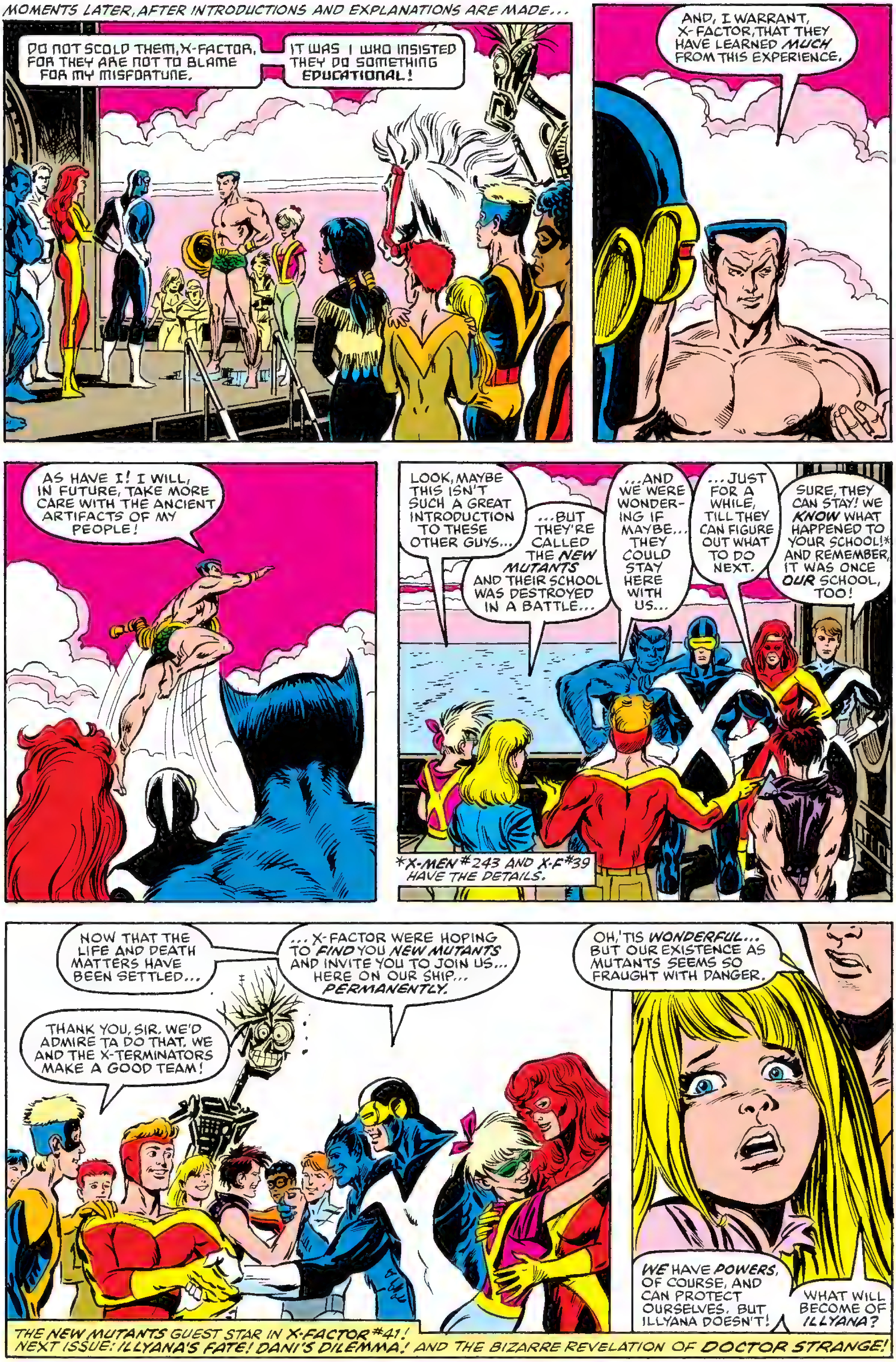

THERE IT IS!
THAT CREATURE IS ENORMOUS! LARGER THAN THE ONE I ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.
WHAT CAN WE DO AGAINST SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THE FANTASTIC FOUR USED A BOMB TO DESTROY A SIMILAR MONSTER.
SO MAYBE ONE OF MY TIME BOMBS'LL WORK... A REAL BIG ONE ON A REAL LONG DELAY.
...5...
...4...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ILLYANA IS STILL ASLEEP!
SHE'S EXHAUSTED, BOBBY. AS ARE WE ALL!
...3...
USE WHAT POWER YOU POSSESS TO DISTRACT THE CREATURE. KEEP IT FROM DIVING DEEPER...
...SO THAT THIS... TIME BOMB... WILL HAVE TIME TO REACH IT AND DESTROY IT.
...2...
BLOWING OFF A TENTACLE... OR EVEN TWO OR THREE WON'T DO ANY GOOD!


...1...!
BOOM!
RICTOR'S RIGHT! THE MONSTER ROLLED OVER...THE *BOMB* BARELY *GRAZED* HIM.
WE NEED A MORE *LOCALIZED* ATTACK. WE NEED TO DESTROY ITS *BRAIN*.
I WAS WITH MY *DAD* IN SOUTH AMERICA. I LEARNED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS THERE ...INCLUDING STUFF ABOUT *DYNAMITE*!
I COULD WISH *TNT* UP, NO PROBLEM.
'COURSE YOU CAN ONLY MAKE ONE WISH REAL AT A TIME. OUR ATLANTEAN DIVING SUITS'LL DISAPPEAR...
NO SWEAT. WE'LL STILL HAVE THE SUITS THE *SHIP* MADE. AND WE HAVE *WARLOCK*. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
IT SURE DIDN'T LIKE THAT *TIME BOMB*.
ROAAARR!
NOPE, NOT AT ALL!
"HEY, *WARLOCK*, WE HAVE AN IDEA! WE'RE COMING IN!"
YOU THINKING WHAT *WE'RE* THINKING?
IT'LL TAKE TEAMWORK AND BE *DANGEROUS* BUT IT MIGHT DO THE JOB.
RICTOR, ABOUT HOW MUCH *DYNAMITE* WOULD YOU SAY WE'LL NEED?
ABOUT...
PING!
...*THIS* MUCH!
EXCELLENT!
NOW WE NEED ONLY GET THAT CREATURE *ANGRY* ENOUGH TO OPEN WIDE ITS *MOUTH*.
NO *PROBLEM*! TA-DA!...5...
SELF WILL PROVIDE A *TORPEDO TUBE* FOR ACCURATE *AIM*!
...4...


AND A LITTLE EXTRA PUNCH SHOULD SPEED THE JOB ALONG!
POW!
BOOM!
IT'S MAD! IT'S THRASHING AROUND BUT IT HASN'T SPOTTED US YET!
COME ON, YOU SUCKER! WE'RE HERE. WE'RE THE ONES WHO'RE BOTHERING YOU.
RUMBLE!
COME ON! GRAB US! AND OPEN WIDE!
IT'S GOT US!
I NOTICED!
EEEEK!
ILLYANA, YOU WOULD WAKE UP NOW!
REMAIN CALM, CHILD, IT IS ONLY THE OCEAN!
AND A GIANT MONSTER-- WHO'S CRUSHING POOR WARLOCK!
WARLOCK, YOU'RE LEAKING!
APOLOGIES, SELFRIENDS! SELF IS HAVING DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF HULL!
WHAT'RE YOU HOLLERING ABOUT, BOOM-BOOM? SAM HAS MY HELMET!
AT LEAST WE ACCOMPLISHED PHASE ONE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THE MONSTER HAS OPENED HIS MAW!


THERE THEY *GO* WITH THE DYNAMITE... INTO THE MONSTER'S *MOUTH!*
THE *LEAKS* ARE GETTING *WORSE!*
ILLYANA, BABY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN NOW. SUNSPOT AND THE SUB-MARINER NEED MY STRENGTH, AS WELL!
I ONLY HOPE THAT WE CAN KEEP FROM BEING CRUSHED UNTIL THE DYNAMITE DOES ITS JOB.
WE'RE INSIDE. DO YOU THINK WE'RE FAR ENOUGH BACK?
ANY FURTHER, AN' HE MIGHT SWALLOW *US.*
HURRY, AND IGNITE THE CORD, RUSTY.
READY, SKIDS?
THEN, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
FIZZZZZ!
I'VE GOT MY DEFLECTOR SHIELD TIGHT *AROUND* US.
LET'S HOPE IT *HOLDS!*
BOOM!


MINUTES LATER...
THERE'S THE SUB-MARINER ...WITH RAHNE AND ILLYANA AND THE HORN!
BUT WHERE'S SAM AND RUSTY AND SKIDS?
SELF HAS LOOKED AND LOOKED BUT SELF CANNOT LOCATE THEM!
YO, 'LOCK! WE'RE OVER HERE!
BUT... WHERE'S OUR SHIP?
I AM HERE... AND VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR SAVING ME!
AND LOOK-- X-FACTOR HAS RETURNED.
WRUSSSH!
TALK ABOUT PERFECT TIMING!
THE SHIP'S A MESS!
IS THAT... A FLYING HORSE?
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US WHAT'S GOING ON?


MOMENTS LATER, AFTER INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS ARE MADE...
DO NOT SCOLD THEM, X-FACTOR, FOR THEY ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR MY MISFORTUNE.
IT WAS I WHO INSISTED THEY DO SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL!
AND, I WARRANT, X-FACTOR, THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED MUCH FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.
AS HAVE I! I WILL, IN FUTURE, TAKE MORE CARE WITH THE ANCIENT ARTIFACTS OF MY PEOPLE!
LOOK, MAYBE THIS ISN'T SUCH A GREAT INTRODUCTION TO THESE OTHER GUYS...
...BUT THEY'RE CALLED THE NEW MUTANTS AND THEIR SCHOOL WAS DESTROYED IN A BATTLE...
...AND WE WERE WONDERING IF MAYBE... THEY COULD STAY HERE WITH US...
...JUST FOR A WHILE, TILL THEY CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.
SURE, THEY CAN STAY! WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SCHOOL!* AND REMEMBER, IT WAS ONCE OUR SCHOOL, TOO!
*X-MEN #243 AND X-F #39 HAVE THE DETAILS.
NOW THAT THE LIFE AND DEATH MATTERS HAVE BEEN SETTLED...
...X-FACTOR WERE HOPING TO FIND YOU NEW MUTANTS AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US... HERE ON OUR SHIP... PERMANENTLY.
THANK YOU, SIR. WE'D ADMIRE TA DO THAT. WE AND THE X-TERMINATORS MAKE A GOOD TEAM!
OH, 'TIS WONDERFUL... BUT OUR EXISTENCE AS MUTANTS SEEMS SO FRAUGHT WITH DANGER.
WE HAVE POWERS, OF COURSE, AND CAN PROTECT OURSELVES. BUT ILLYANA DOESN'T!
WHAT WILL BECOME OF ILLYANA?
THE NEW MUTANTS GUEST STAR IN X-FACTOR #41!
NEXT ISSUE: ILLYANA'S FATE! DANI'S DILEMMA! AND THE BIZARRE REVELATION OF DOCTOR STRANGE!

MARVEL
THE NEW
MUTANTS
TM
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77
JUL
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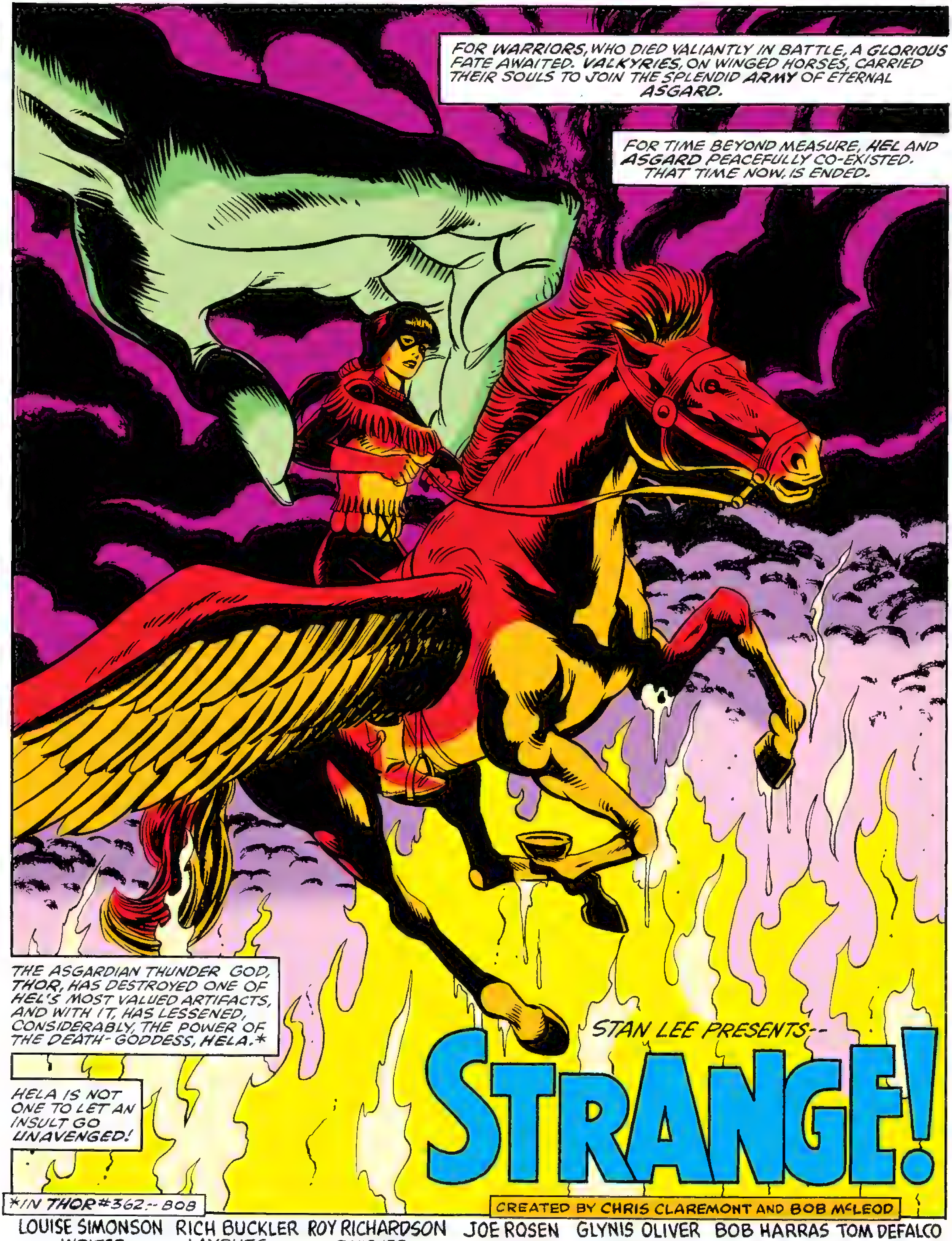
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BEWARE--
THE FLAME OF THE VALKYRIE!!!
BUCKLER & McLEOD

THERE IS A DIMENSION WHERE FROZEN SPIRITS WANDER, BEYOND RESCUE, THROUGH ICY **NOTHINGNESS.** THE VIKINGS CALLED IT **HEL**, AND KNEW IT AS THE FINAL DESTINATION FOR MEN WHOSE LIVES, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR **DEATHS**, WERE... MERELY **ORDINARY.**


FOR **WARRIORS**, WHO DIED VALIANTLY IN BATTLE, A **GLORIOUS** FATE AWAITED. **VALKYRIES**, ON WINGED HORSES, CARRIED THEIR SOULS TO JOIN THE SPLENDID **ARMY** OF ETERNAL **ASGARD.**
FOR TIME BEYOND MEASURE, **HEL** AND **ASGARD** PEACEFULLY CO-EXISTED. THAT TIME NOW, IS ENDED.
THE ASGARDIAN THUNDER GOD, **THOR**, HAS DESTROYED ONE OF **HEL'S** MOST VALUED ARTIFACTS, AND WITH IT, HAS LESSENED, CONSIDERABLY, THE POWER OF THE DEATH-GODDESS, **HELA.***
HELA IS NOT ONE TO LET AN INSULT GO **UNAVENGED!**
STAN LEE PRESENTS--
STRANGE!
*IN **THOR** #362.-- BOB
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD

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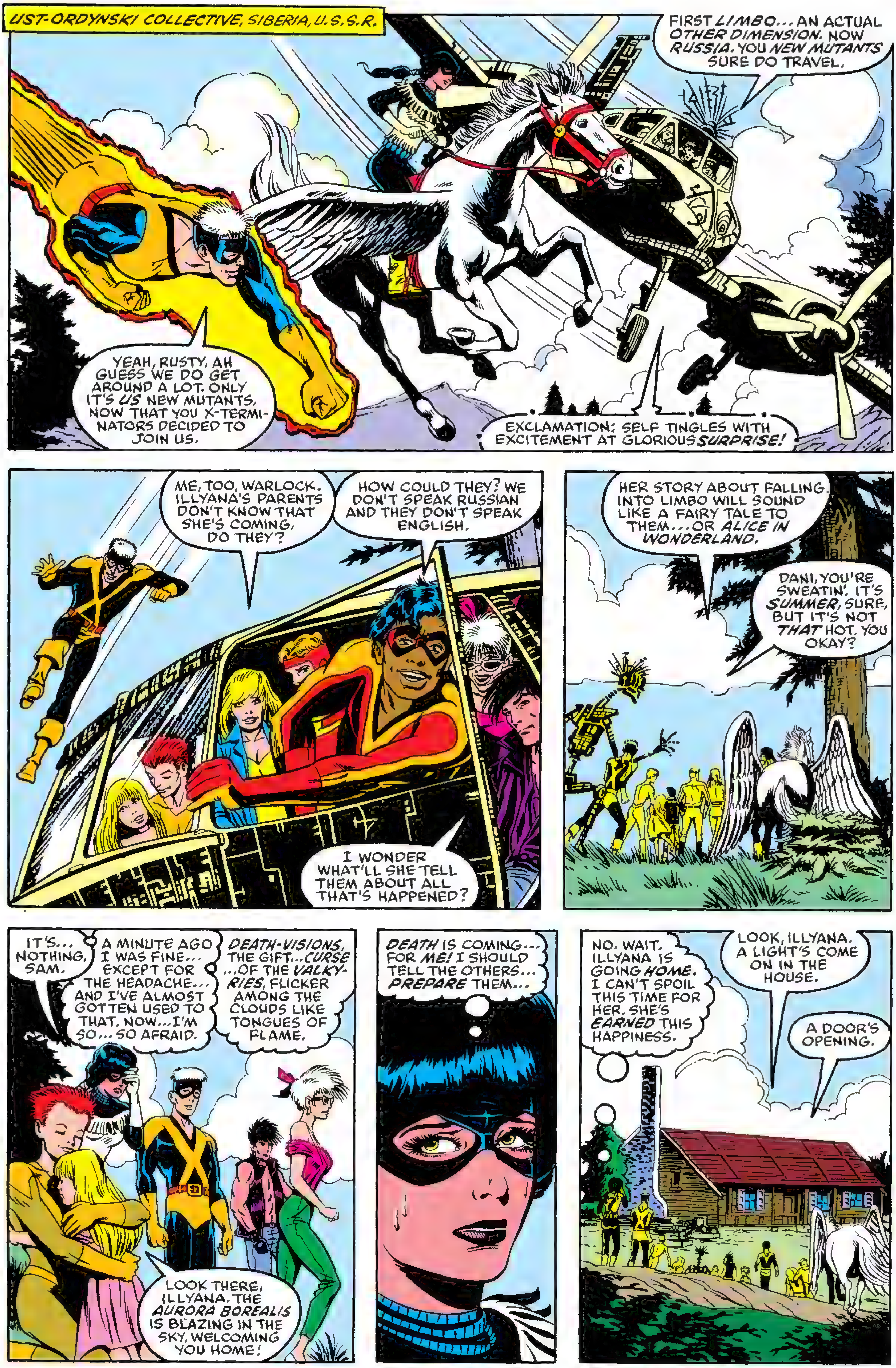
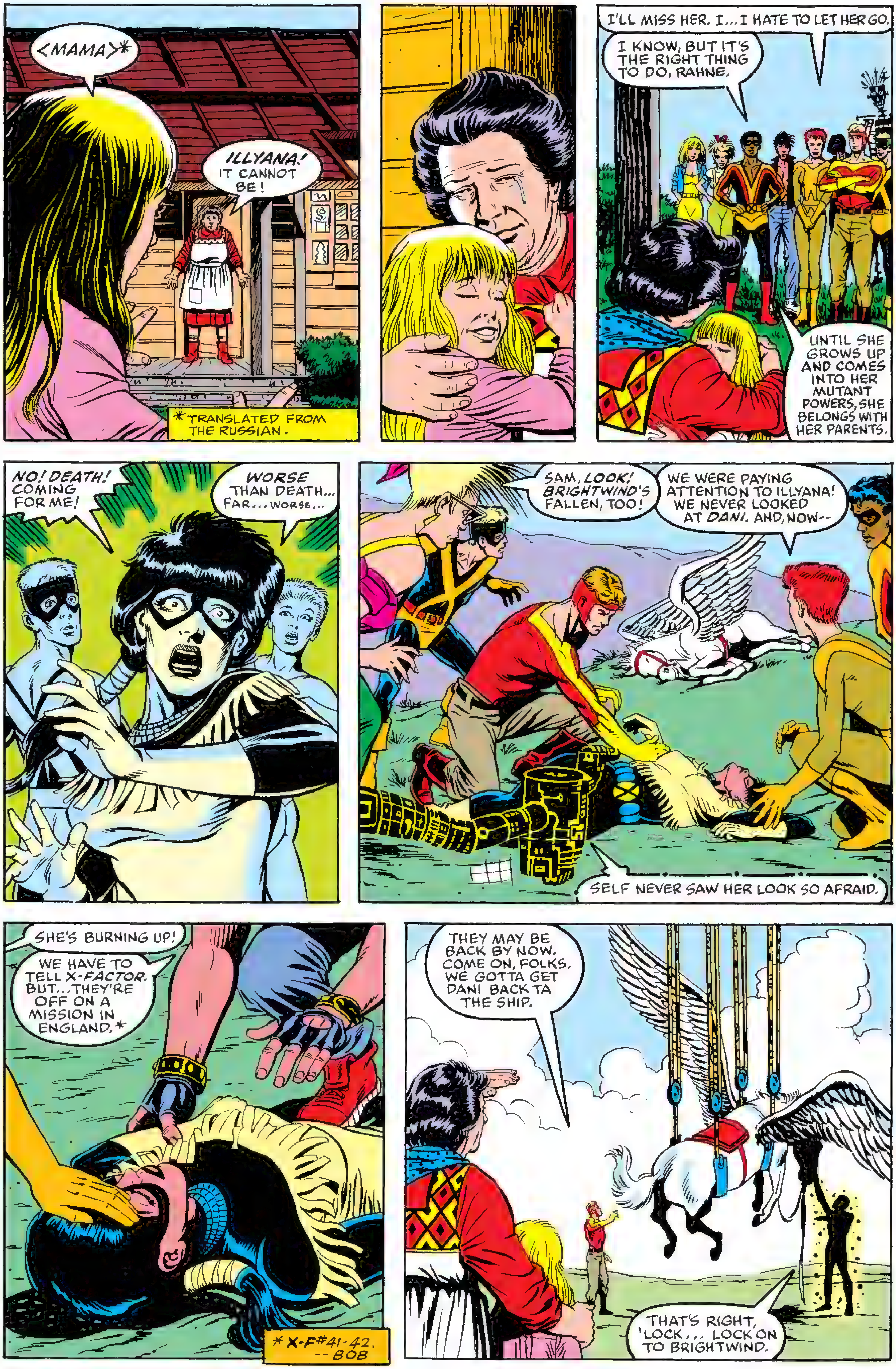
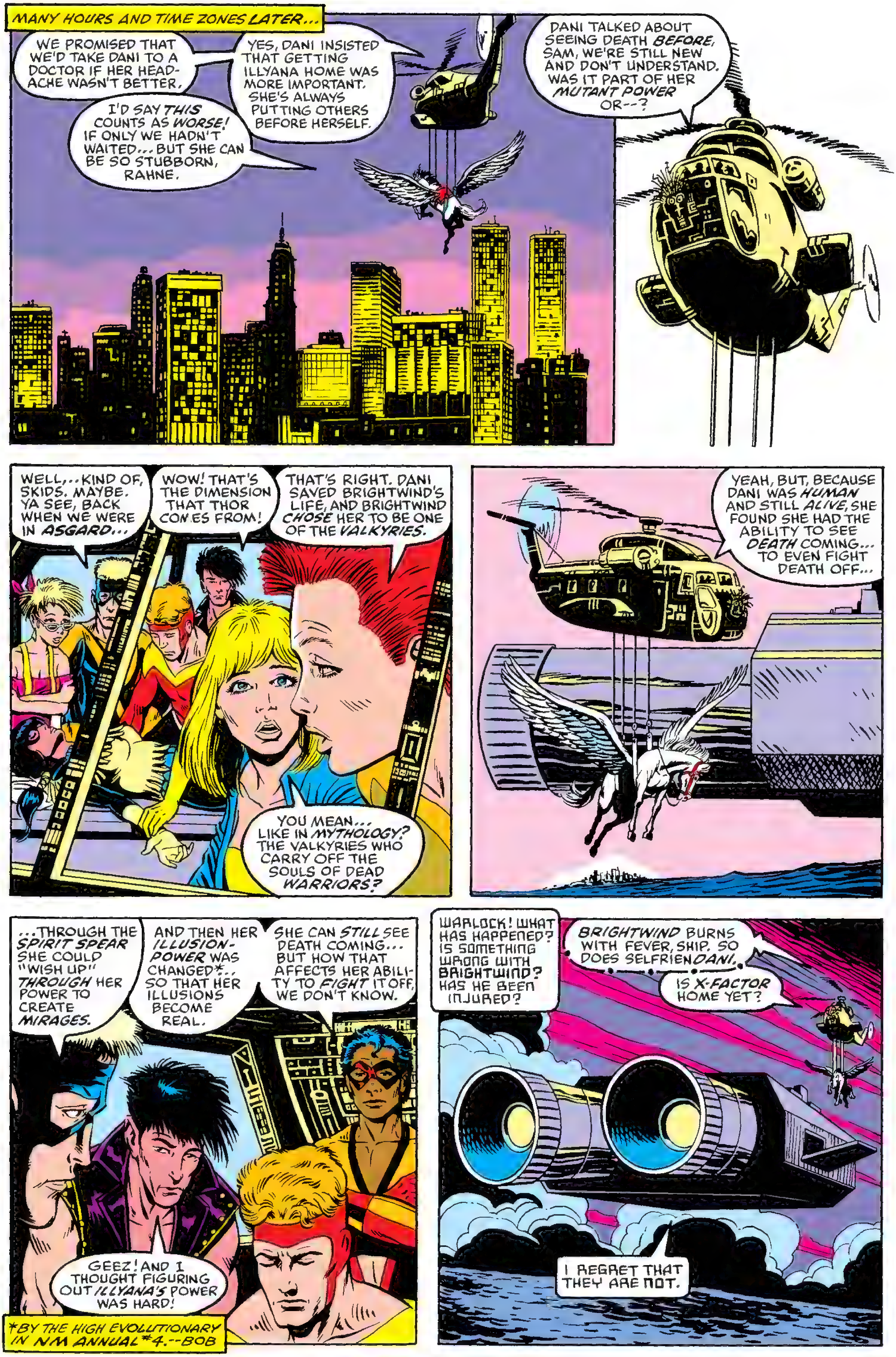
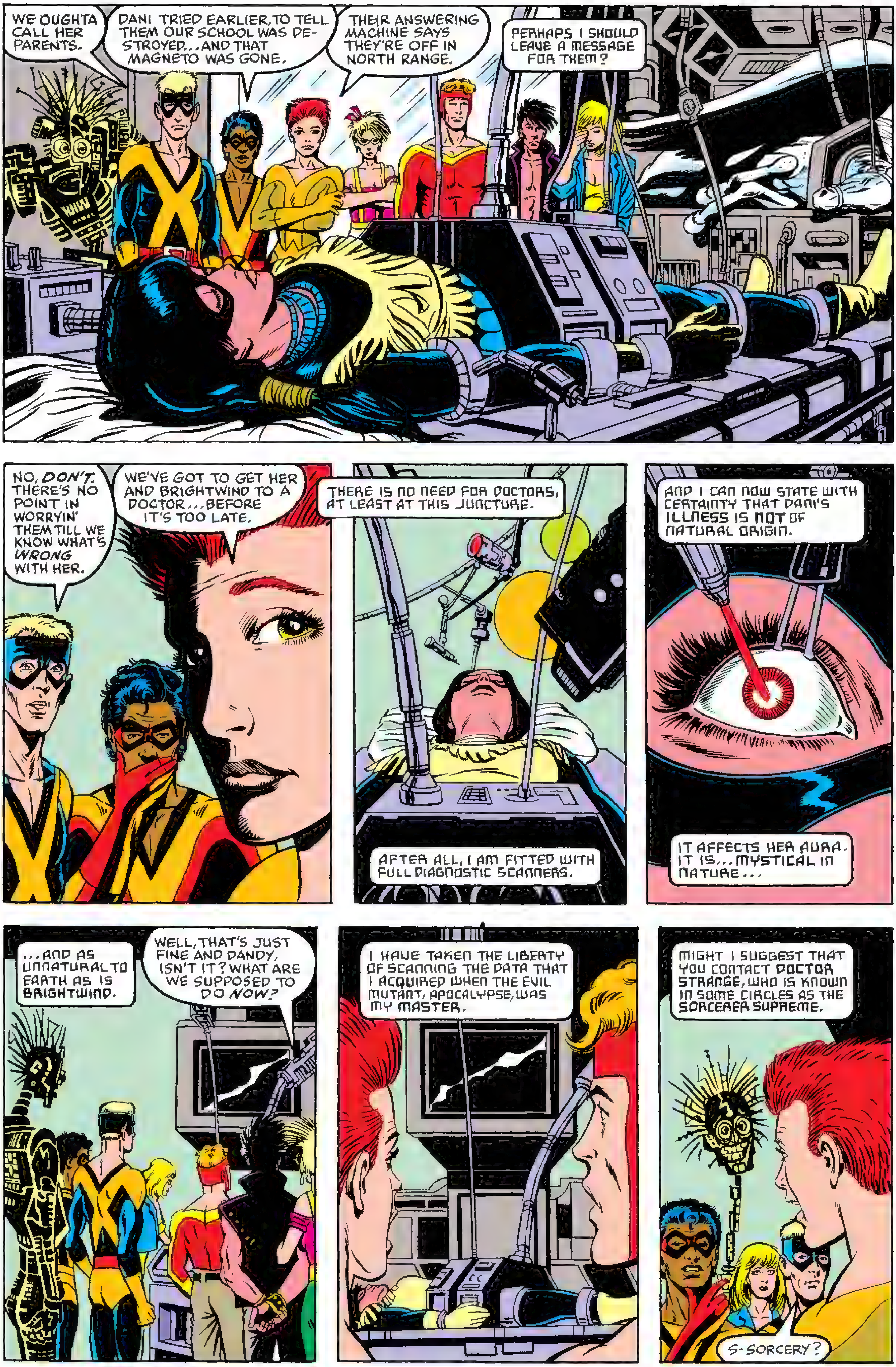
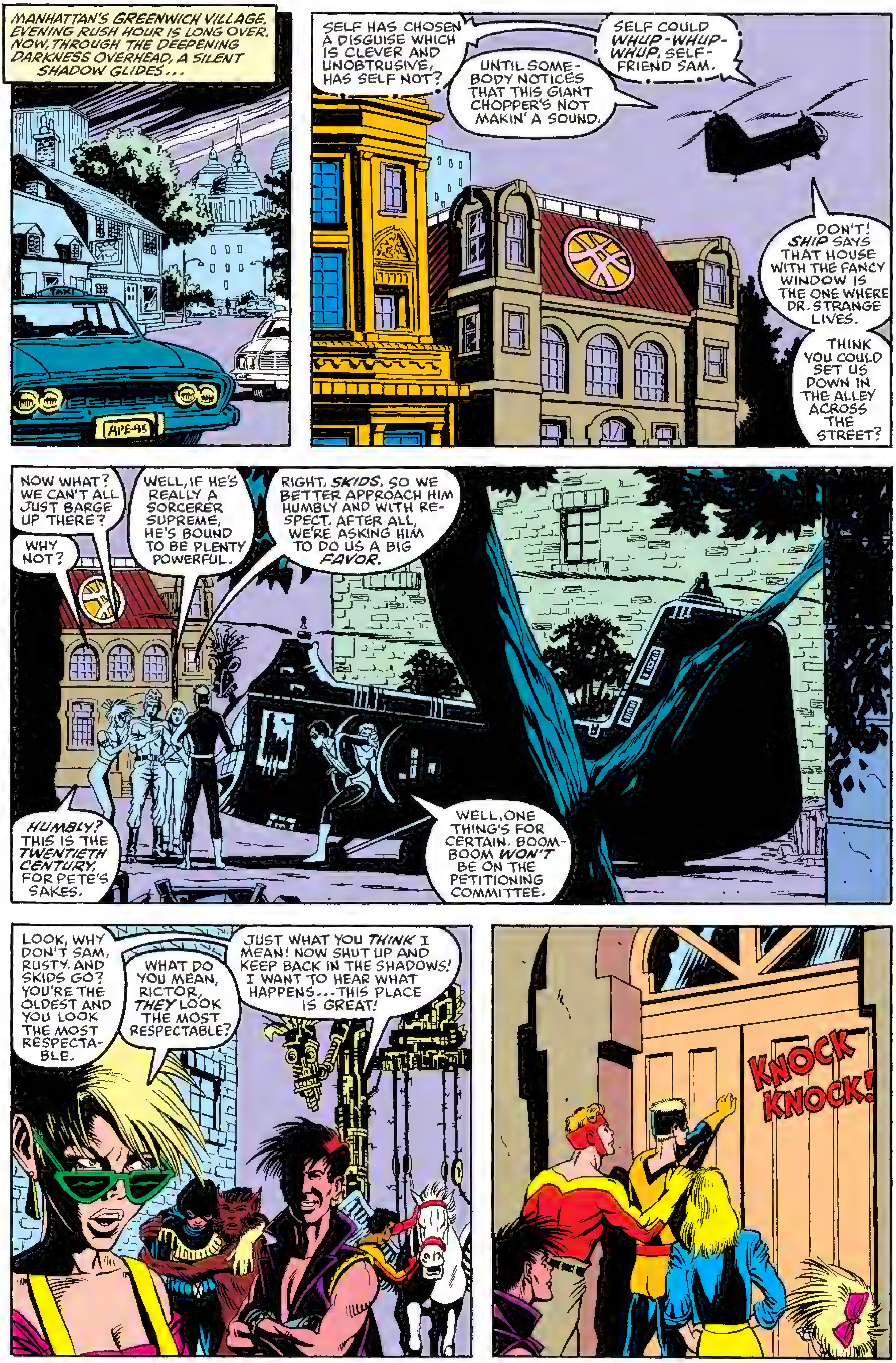
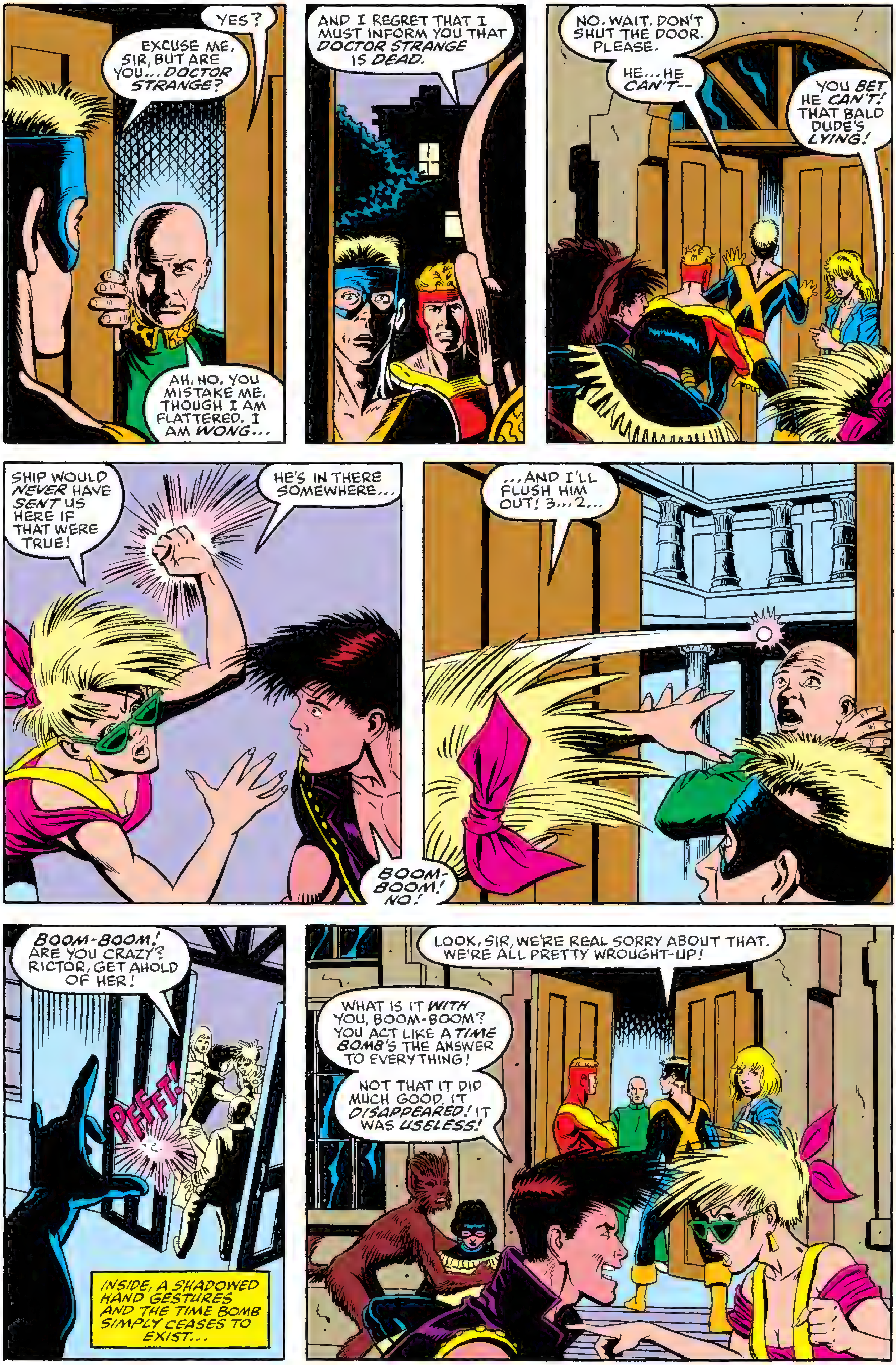

UST-ORDYNSKI COLLECTIVE, SIBERIA, U.S.S.R.
FIRST *LIMBO*... AN ACTUAL *OTHER DIMENSION.* NOW *RUSSIA.* YOU *NEW MUTANTS* SURE DO TRAVEL.
YEAH, RUSTY, AH GUESS WE DO GET AROUND A LOT. ONLY IT'S *US* NEW MUTANTS, NOW THAT YOU X-TERMINATORS DECIDED TO JOIN US.
EXCLAMATION: SELF TINGLES WITH EXCITEMENT AT GLORIOUS *SURPRISE!*
ME, TOO, WARLOCK. ILLYANA'S PARENTS DON'T KNOW THAT SHE'S COMING, DO THEY?
HOW COULD THEY? WE DON'T SPEAK RUSSIAN AND THEY DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH.
I WONDER WHAT'LL SHE TELL THEM ABOUT ALL THAT'S HAPPENED?
HER STORY ABOUT FALLING INTO LIMBO WILL SOUND LIKE A FAIRY TALE TO THEM... OR *ALICE IN WONDERLAND.*
DANI, YOU'RE SWEATIN'. IT'S *SUMMER,* SURE, BUT IT'S NOT *THAT* HOT. YOU OKAY?
IT'S... NOTHING, SAM.
A MINUTE AGO I WAS FINE... EXCEPT FOR THE HEADACHE... AND I'VE ALMOST GOTTEN USED TO THAT. NOW... I'M SO... SO AFRAID.
DEATH-VISIONS, THE GIFT... *CURSE* ...OF THE *VALKYRIES,* FLICKER AMONG THE CLOUDS LIKE TONGUES OF FLAME.
LOOK THERE, ILLYANA. THE *AURORA BOREALIS* IS BLAZING IN THE SKY, WELCOMING YOU HOME!
DEATH IS COMING... FOR *ME!* I SHOULD TELL THE OTHERS... *PREPARE* THEM...
NO. WAIT. ILLYANA IS GOING *HOME.* I CAN'T SPOIL THIS TIME FOR HER. SHE'S *EARNED* THIS HAPPINESS.
LOOK, ILLYANA. A LIGHT'S COME ON IN THE HOUSE.
A DOOR'S OPENING.

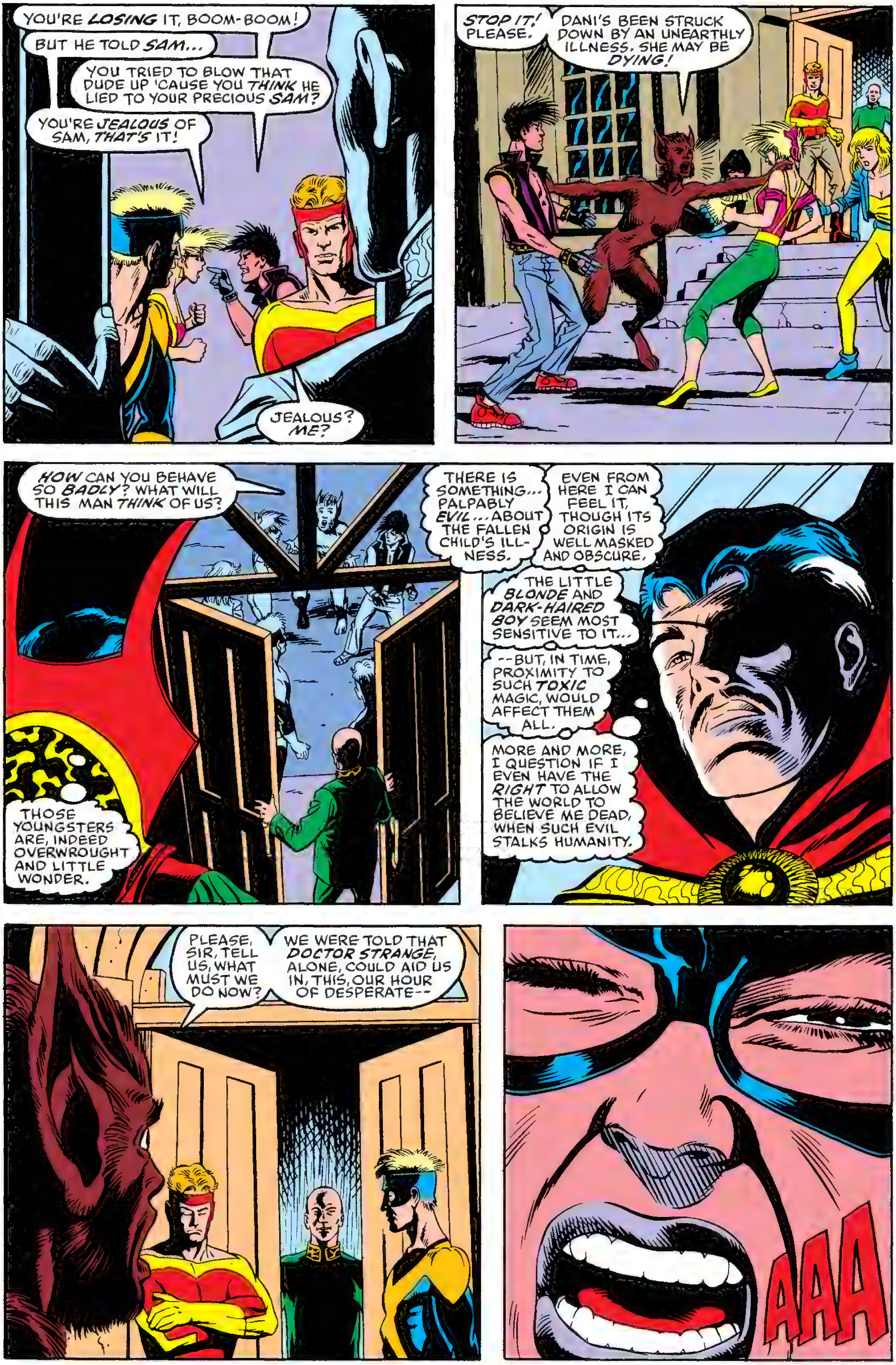

<MAMA>*
ILLYANA! IT CANNOT BE!
*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN.
I'LL MISS HER. I...I HATE TO LET HER GO.
I KNOW, BUT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, RAHNE.
UNTIL SHE GROWS UP AND COMES INTO HER MUTANT POWERS, SHE BELONGS WITH HER PARENTS.
NO! DEATH! COMING FOR ME!
WORSE THAN DEATH... FAR... WORSE...
SAM, LOOK! BRIGHTWIND'S FALLEN, TOO!
WE WERE PAYING ATTENTION TO ILLYANA! WE NEVER LOOKED AT DANI. AND, NOW--
SELF NEVER SAW HER LOOK SO AFRAID.
SHE'S BURNING UP!
WE HAVE TO TELL X-FACTOR. BUT... THEY'RE OFF ON A MISSION IN ENGLAND.*
*X-F#41-42. --BOB
THEY MAY BE BACK BY NOW. COME ON, FOLKS. WE GOTTA GET DANI BACK TA THE SHIP.
THAT'S RIGHT, 'LOCK... LOCK ON TO BRIGHTWIND.

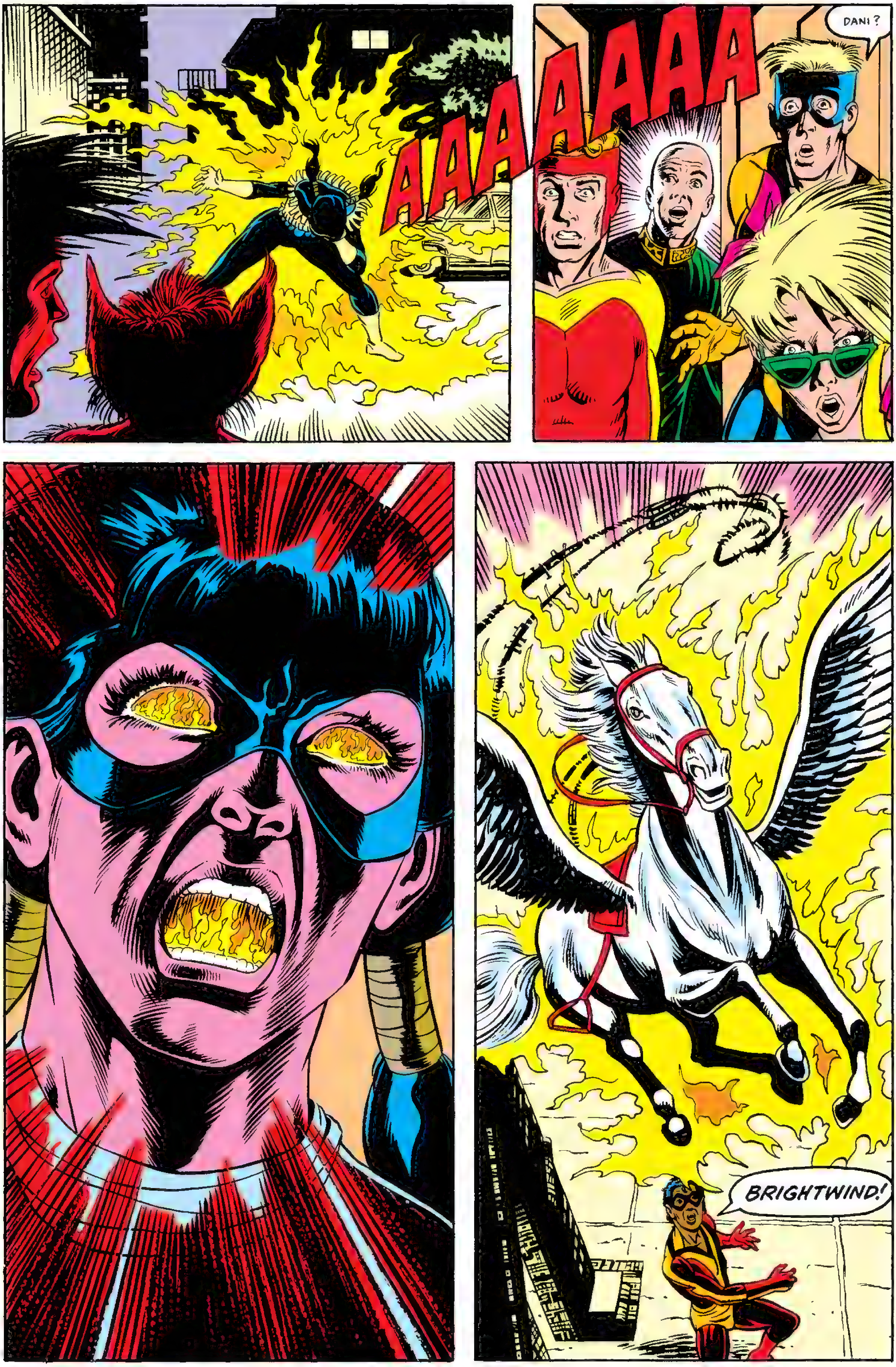

MANY HOURS AND TIME ZONES LATER...
WE PROMISED THAT WE'D TAKE DANI TO A DOCTOR IF HER HEADACHE WASN'T BETTER.
YES, DANI INSISTED THAT GETTING ILLYANA HOME WAS MORE IMPORTANT. SHE'S ALWAYS PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE HERSELF.
I'D SAY THIS COUNTS AS WORSE! IF ONLY WE HADN'T WAITED... BUT SHE CAN BE SO STUBBORN, RAHNE.
DANI TALKED ABOUT SEEING DEATH BEFORE, SAM. WE'RE STILL NEW AND DON'T UNDERSTAND. WAS IT PART OF HER MUTANT POWER OR--?
WELL... KIND OF, SKIDS. MAYBE. YA SEE, BACK WHEN WE WERE IN ASGARD...
WOW! THAT'S THE DIMENSION THAT THOR COMES FROM!
THAT'S RIGHT. DANI SAVED BRIGHTWIND'S LIFE, AND BRIGHTWIND CHOSE HER TO BE ONE OF THE VALKYRIES.
YOU MEAN... LIKE IN MYTHOLOGY? THE VALKYRIES WHO CARRY OFF THE SOULS OF DEAD WARRIORS?
YEAH, BUT, BECAUSE DANI WAS HUMAN AND STILL ALIVE, SHE FOUND SHE HAD THE ABILITY TO SEE DEATH COMING... TO EVEN FIGHT DEATH OFF...
...THROUGH THE SPIRIT SPEAR SHE COULD "WISH UP" THROUGH HER POWER TO CREATE MIRAGES.
AND THEN HER ILLUSION-POWER WAS CHANGED*... SO THAT HER ILLUSIONS BECOME REAL.
SHE CAN STILL SEE DEATH COMING... BUT HOW THAT AFFECTS HER ABILITY TO FIGHT IT OFF, WE DON'T KNOW.
GEEZ! AND I THOUGHT FIGURING OUT ILLYANA'S POWER WAS HARD!
*BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY IN NM ANNUAL #4.--BOB
WARLOCK! WHAT HAS HAPPENED? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH BRIGHTWIND? HAS HE BEEN INJURED?
BRIGHTWIND BURNS WITH FEVER, SHIP. SO DOES SELFRIENDANI.
IS X-FACTOR HOME YET?
I REGRET THAT THEY ARE NOT.

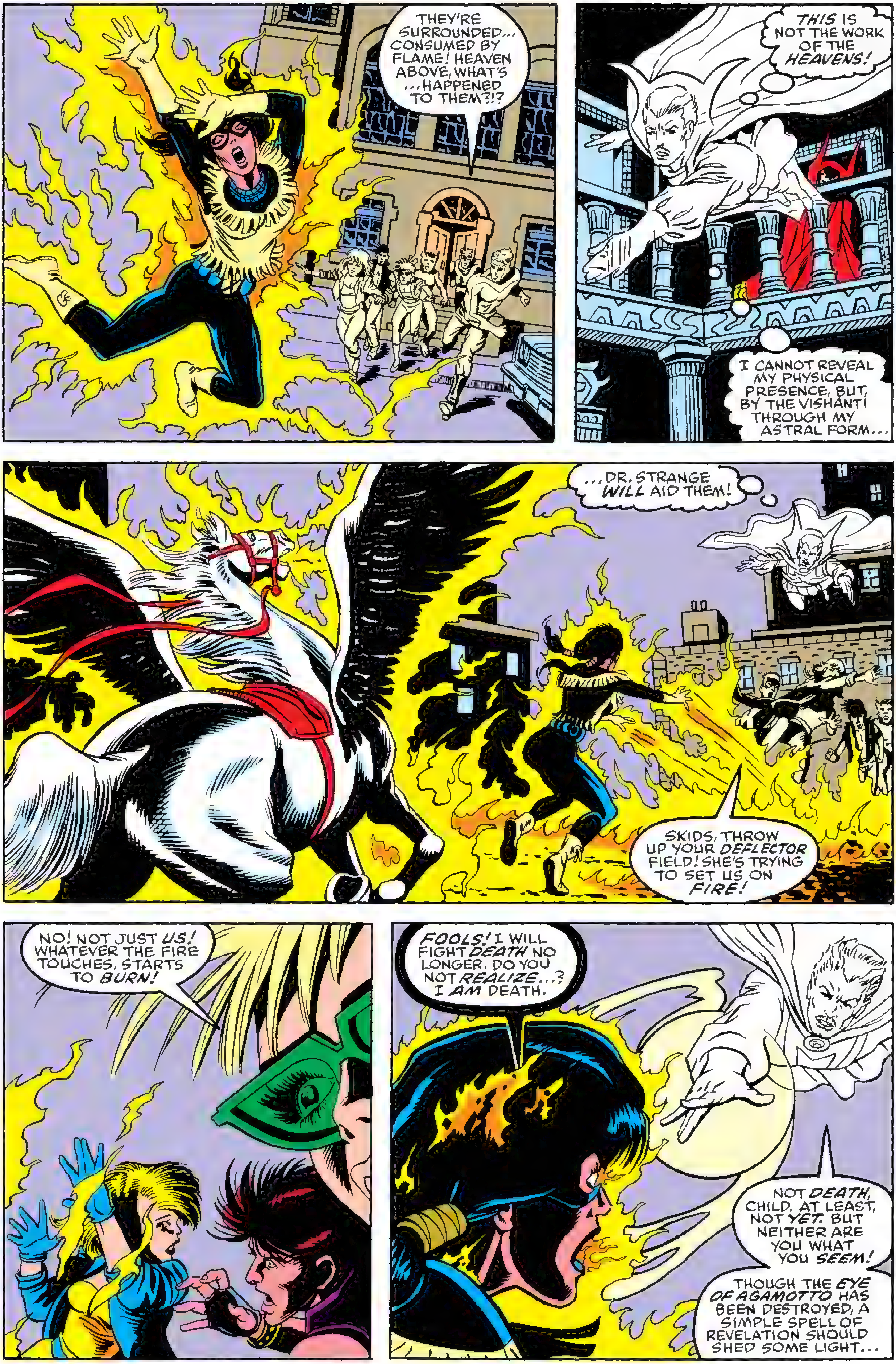

WE OUGHTA CALL HER PARENTS.
DANI TRIED EARLIER, TO TELL THEM OUR SCHOOL WAS DESTROYED...AND THAT MAGNETO WAS GONE.
THEIR ANSWERING MACHINE SAYS THEY'RE OFF IN NORTH RANGE.
PERHAPS I SHOULD LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR THEM?
NO, *DON'T.* THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYIN' THEM TILL WE KNOW WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH HER.
WE'VE GOT TO GET HER AND BRIGHTWIND TO A DOCTOR...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR DOCTORS, AT LEAST AT THIS JUNCTURE.
AFTER ALL, I AM FITTED WITH FULL DIAGNOSTIC SCANNERS.
AND I CAN NOW STATE WITH CERTAINTY THAT DANI'S **ILLNESS** IS **NOT** OF NATURAL ORIGIN.
IT AFFECTS HER AURA. IT IS...**MYSTICAL** IN NATURE...
...AND AS UNNATURAL TO EARTH AS IS **BRIGHTWIND**.
WELL, THAT'S JUST FINE AND DANDY, ISN'T IT? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO *NOW?*
I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF SCANNING THE DATA THAT I ACQUIRED WHEN THE EVIL MUTANT, APOCALYPSE, WAS MY **MASTER**.
MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT **DOCTOR STRANGE**, WHO IS KNOWN IN SOME CIRCLES AS THE **SORCERER SUPREME**.
S-SORCERY?

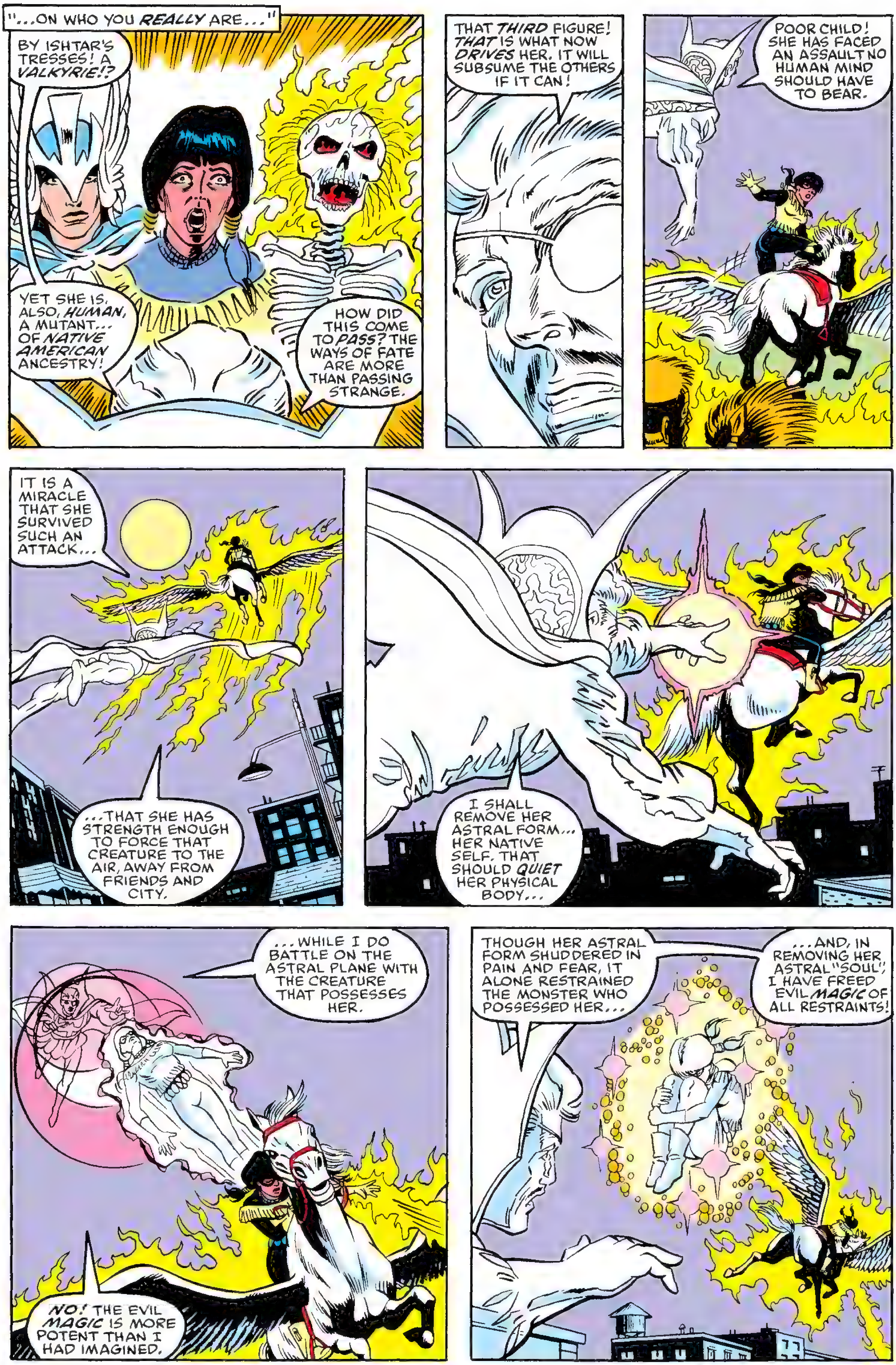

MANHATTAN'S GREENWICH VILLAGE. EVENING RUSH HOUR IS LONG OVER. NOW, THROUGH THE DEEPENING DARKNESS OVERHEAD, A SILENT SHADOW GLIDES...
APE-95
SELF HAS CHOSEN A DISGUISE WHICH IS CLEVER AND UNOBTRUSIVE, HAS SELF NOT?
SELF COULD *WHUP-WHUP-WHUP*, SELF-FRIEND SAM.
UNTIL SOMEBODY NOTICES THAT THIS GIANT CHOPPER'S NOT MAKIN' A SOUND.
DON'T! *SHIP* SAYS THAT HOUSE WITH THE FANCY WINDOW IS THE ONE WHERE DR. STRANGE LIVES.
THINK YOU COULD SET US DOWN IN THE ALLEY ACROSS THE STREET?
NOW WHAT? WE CAN'T ALL JUST BARGE UP THERE?
WHY NOT?
WELL, IF HE'S REALLY A SORCERER SUPREME, HE'S BOUND TO BE PLENTY POWERFUL.
RIGHT, *SKIDS*. SO WE BETTER APPROACH HIM HUMBLY AND WITH RESPECT. AFTER ALL, WE'RE ASKING HIM TO DO US A BIG *FAVOR*.
HUMBLY? THIS IS THE *TWENTIETH CENTURY*, FOR PETE'S SAKES.
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN. BOOM-BOOM *WON'T* BE ON THE PETITIONING COMMITTEE.
LOOK, WHY DON'T SAM, RUSTY, AND SKIDS GO? YOU'RE THE OLDEST AND YOU LOOK THE MOST RESPECTABLE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, RICTOR, *THEY* LOOK THE MOST RESPECTABLE?
JUST WHAT YOU *THINK* I MEAN! NOW SHUT UP AND KEEP BACK IN THE SHADOWS! I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENS... THIS PLACE IS GREAT!
KNOCK KNOCK!

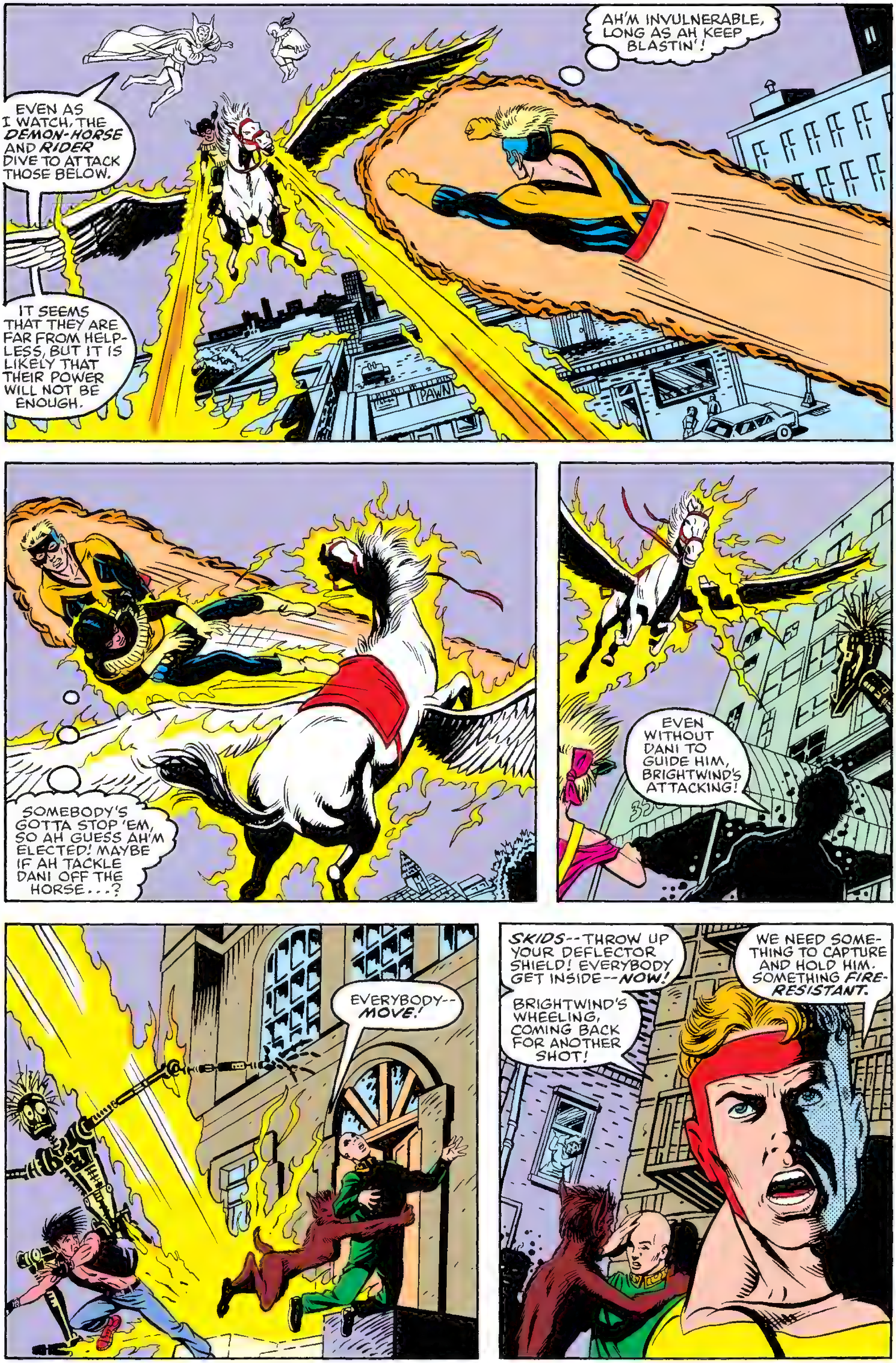

YES?
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT ARE YOU... *DOCTOR STRANGE?*
AH, NO. YOU MISTAKE ME, THOUGH I AM FLATTERED. I AM *WONG*...
AND I REGRET THAT I MUST INFORM YOU THAT *DOCTOR STRANGE* IS *DEAD.*
NO. WAIT. DON'T SHUT THE DOOR. PLEASE.
HE... HE *CAN'T*--
YOU *BET* HE *CAN'T!* THAT BALD DUDE'S *LYING!*
SHIP WOULD *NEVER* HAVE *SENT* US HERE IF THAT WERE TRUE!
HE'S IN THERE SOMEWHERE...
...AND I'LL FLUSH HIM OUT! 3...2...
BOOM-BOOM! NO!
BOOM-BOOM! ARE YOU CRAZY? RICTOR, GET AHOLD OF HER!
PFFFT!
INSIDE, A SHADOWED HAND GESTURES AND THE TIME BOMB SIMPLY CEASES TO EXIST...
LOOK, SIR, WE'RE REAL SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE'RE ALL PRETTY WROUGHT-UP!
WHAT IS IT *WITH* YOU, BOOM-BOOM? YOU ACT LIKE A *TIME BOMB*'S THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING!
NOT THAT IT DID MUCH GOOD. IT *DISAPPEARED!* IT WAS *USELESS!*

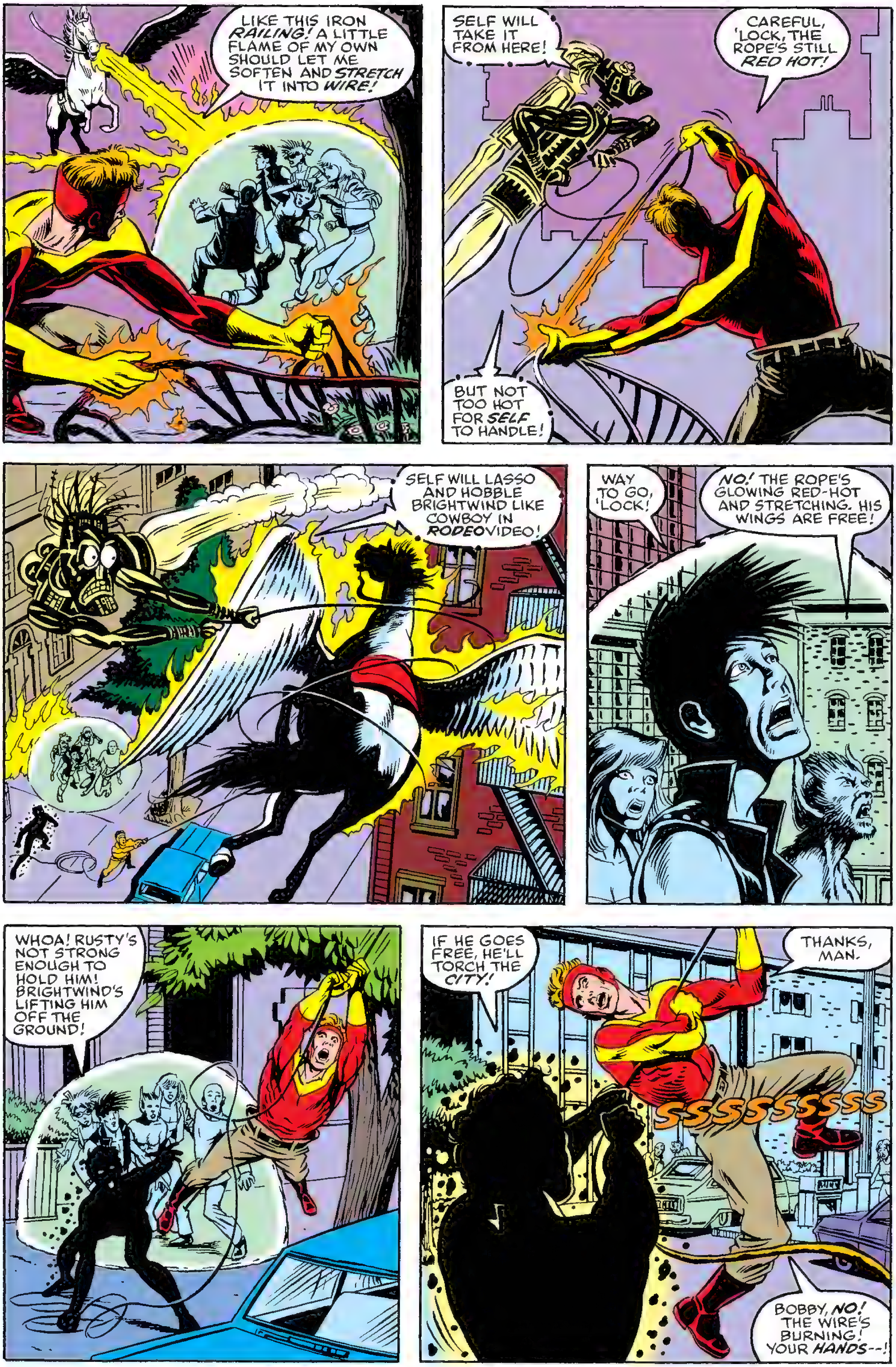

YOU'RE *LOSING* IT, BOOM-BOOM!
BUT HE TOLD *SAM...*
YOU TRIED TO BLOW THAT DUDE UP 'CAUSE YOU *THINK* HE LIED TO YOUR PRECIOUS *SAM?*
YOU'RE *JEALOUS* OF SAM, *THAT'S* IT!
JEALOUS? *ME?*
STOP IT! PLEASE.
DANI'S BEEN STRUCK DOWN BY AN UNEARTHLY ILLNESS. SHE MAY BE *DYING!*
HOW CAN YOU BEHAVE SO *BADLY?* WHAT WILL THIS MAN *THINK* OF US?
THOSE YOUNGSTERS ARE, INDEED OVERWROUGHT AND LITTLE WONDER.
THERE IS SOMETHING... PALPABLY *EVIL*... ABOUT THE FALLEN CHILD'S ILLNESS.
EVEN FROM HERE I CAN FEEL IT, THOUGH ITS ORIGIN IS WELL MASKED AND OBSCURE.
THE LITTLE *BLONDE* AND *DARK-HAIRED BOY* SEEM MOST SENSITIVE TO IT...
--BUT, IN TIME, PROXIMITY TO SUCH *TOXIC* MAGIC, WOULD AFFECT THEM ALL.
MORE AND MORE, I QUESTION IF I EVEN HAVE THE *RIGHT* TO ALLOW THE WORLD TO BELIEVE ME DEAD, WHEN SUCH EVIL STALKS HUMANITY.
PLEASE, SIR, TELL US, WHAT MUST WE DO NOW?
WE WERE TOLD THAT *DOCTOR STRANGE*, ALONE, COULD AID US IN, THIS, OUR HOUR OF DESPERATE--
AAA

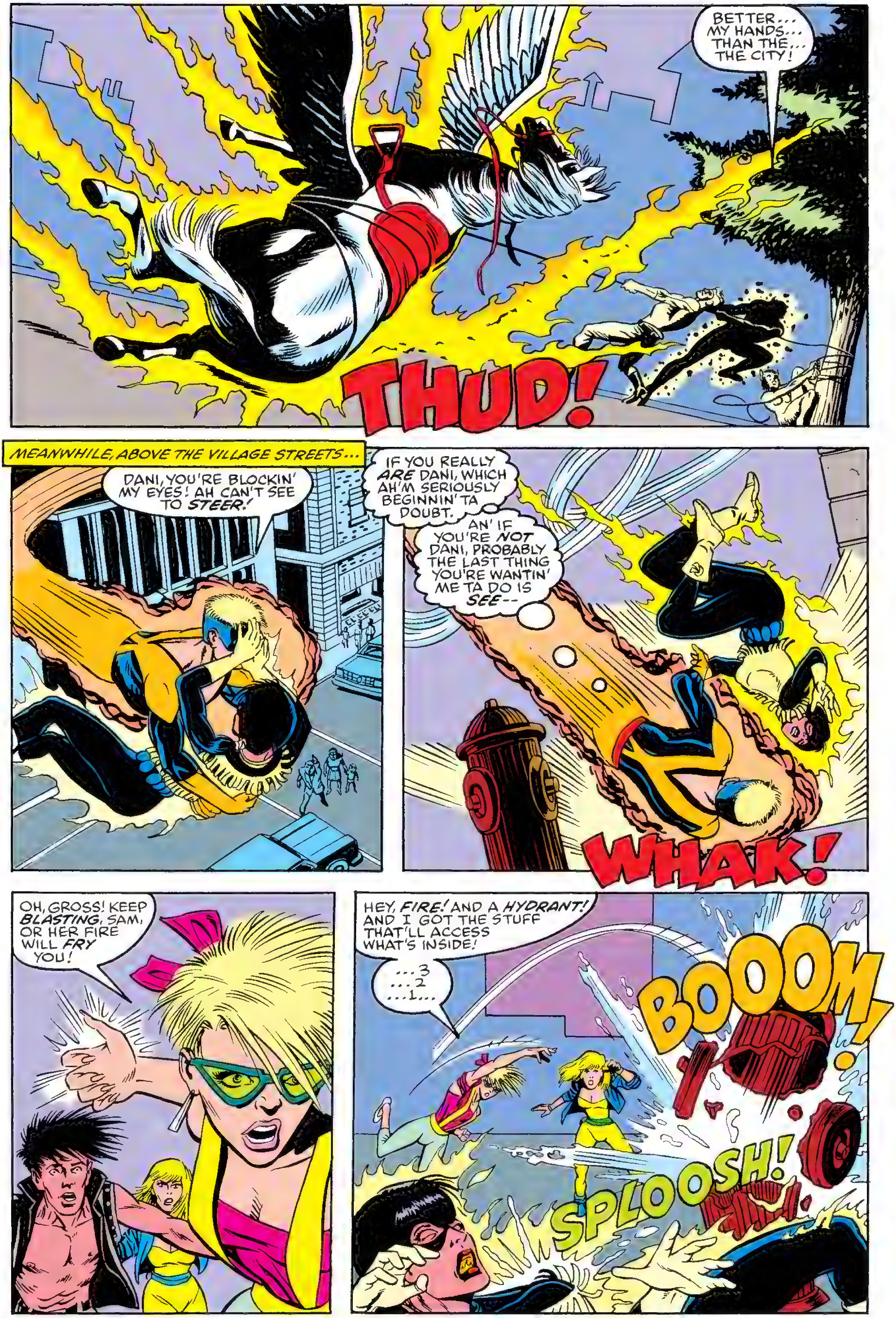

AAAAAAA
DANI?
BRIGHTWIND!

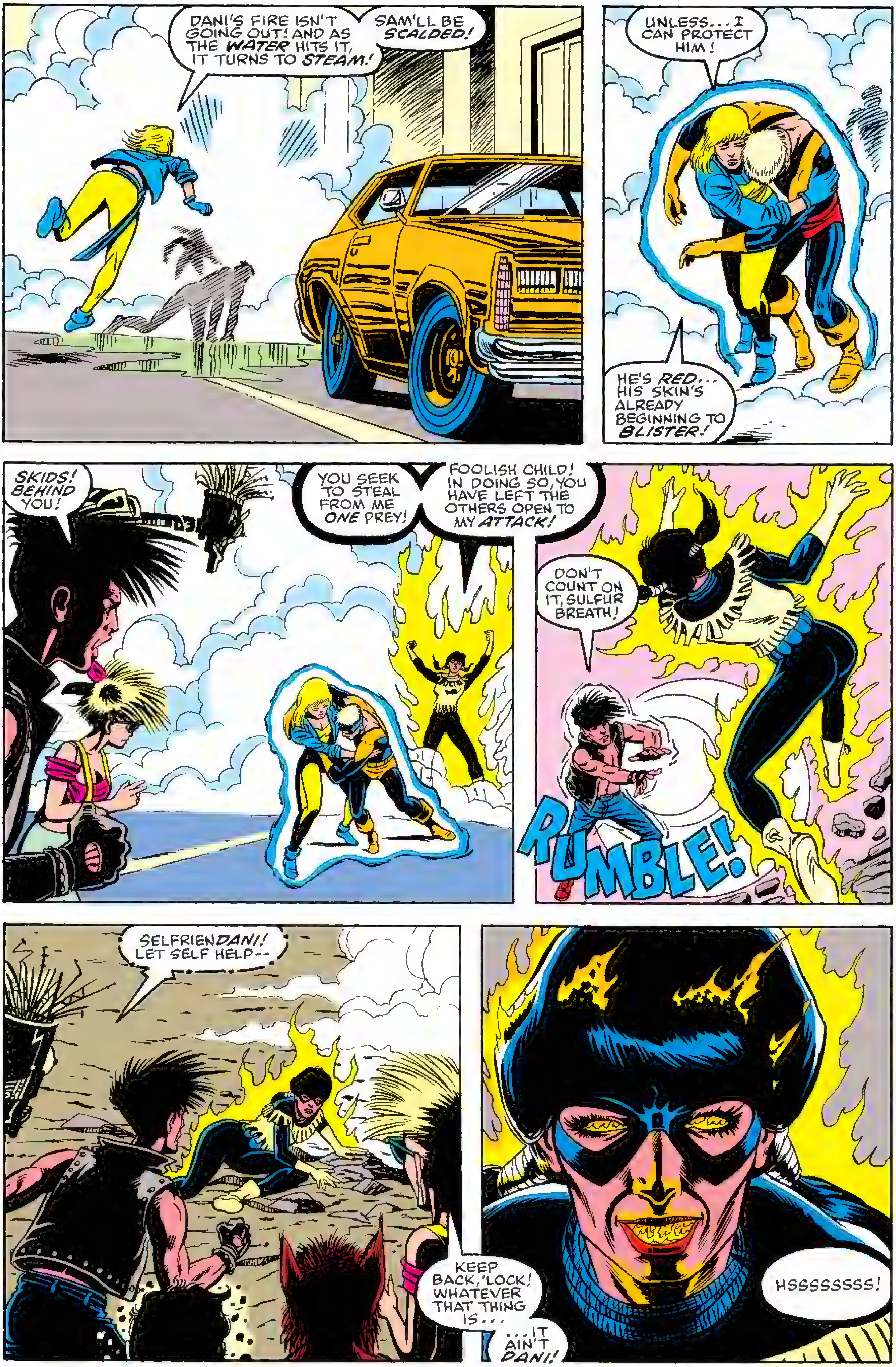

THEY'RE SURROUNDED... CONSUMED BY FLAME! HEAVEN ABOVE, WHAT'S ...HAPPENED TO THEM?!?
THIS IS NOT THE WORK OF THE HEAVENS!
I CANNOT REVEAL MY PHYSICAL PRESENCE, BUT, BY THE VISHANTI THROUGH MY ASTRAL FORM...
...DR. STRANGE WILL AID THEM!
SKIDS, THROW UP YOUR DEFLECTOR FIELD! SHE'S TRYING TO SET US ON FIRE!
NO! NOT JUST US! WHATEVER THE FIRE TOUCHES, STARTS TO BURN!
FOOLS! I WILL FIGHT DEATH NO LONGER. DO YOU NOT REALIZE...? I AM DEATH.
NOT DEATH, CHILD, AT LEAST, NOT YET. BUT NEITHER ARE YOU WHAT YOU SEEM!
THOUGH THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO HAS BEEN DESTROYED, A SIMPLE SPELL OF REVELATION SHOULD SHED SOME LIGHT...

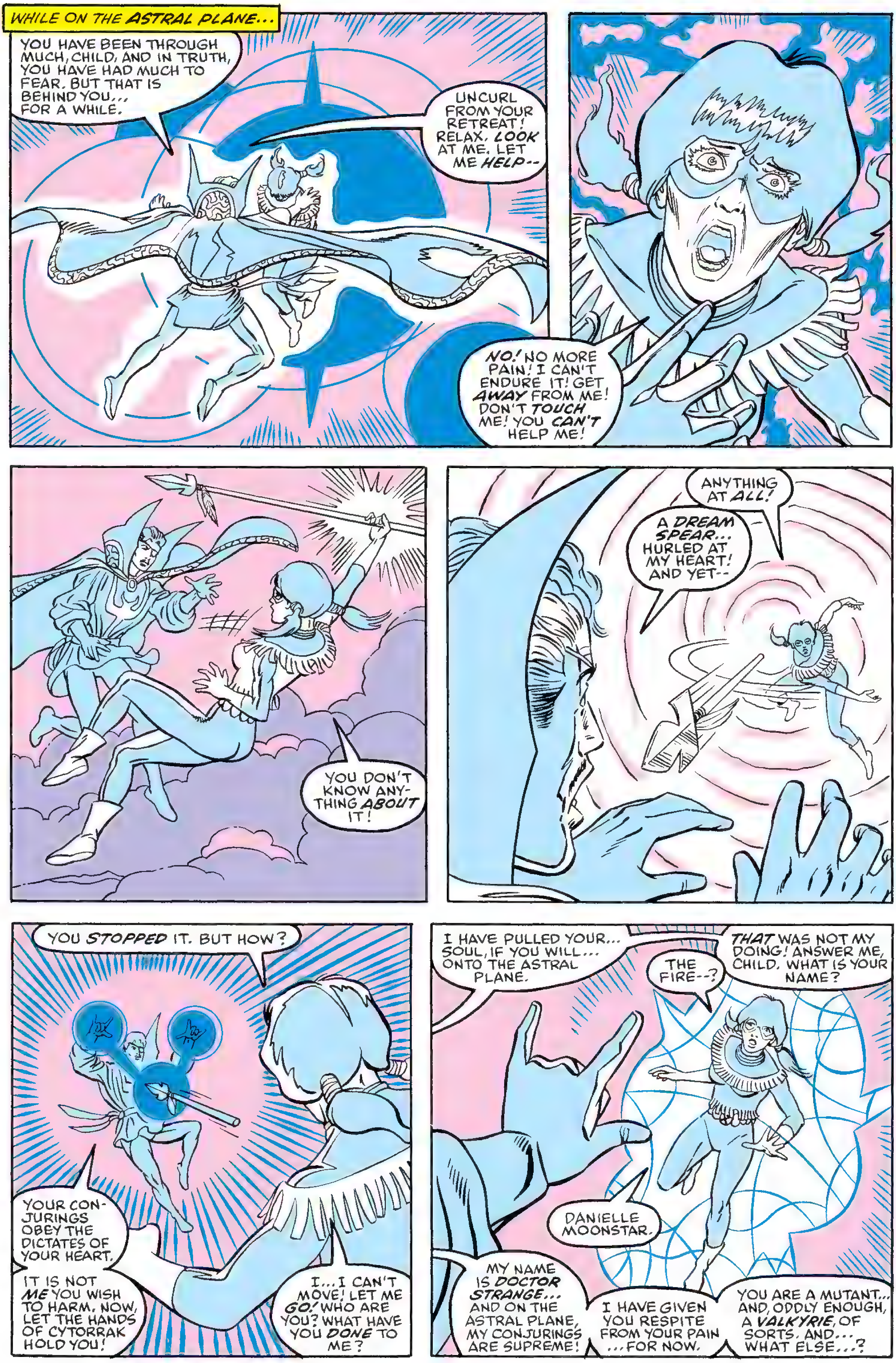

"...ON WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE..."
BY ISHTAR'S TRESSES! A *VALKYRIE!?*
YET SHE IS, ALSO, *HUMAN*, A MUTANT... OF *NATIVE AMERICAN* ANCESTRY!
HOW DID THIS COME TO *PASS?* THE WAYS OF FATE ARE MORE THAN PASSING STRANGE.
THAT *THIRD* FIGURE! *THAT* IS WHAT NOW *DRIVES* HER. IT WILL SUBSUME THE OTHERS IF IT CAN!
POOR CHILD! SHE HAS FACED AN ASSAULT NO HUMAN MIND SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR.
IT IS A MIRACLE THAT SHE SURVIVED SUCH AN ATTACK...
...THAT SHE HAS STRENGTH ENOUGH TO FORCE THAT CREATURE TO THE AIR, AWAY FROM FRIENDS AND CITY.
I SHALL REMOVE HER ASTRAL FORM... HER NATIVE SELF. THAT SHOULD *QUIET* HER PHYSICAL BODY...
...WHILE I DO BATTLE ON THE ASTRAL PLANE WITH THE CREATURE THAT POSSESSES HER.
NO! THE EVIL *MAGIC* IS MORE POTENT THAN I HAD IMAGINED.
THOUGH HER ASTRAL FORM SHUDDERED IN PAIN AND FEAR, IT ALONE RESTRAINED THE MONSTER WHO POSSESSED HER...
...AND, IN REMOVING HER ASTRAL "SOUL", I HAVE FREED EVIL *MAGIC* OF ALL RESTRAINTS!

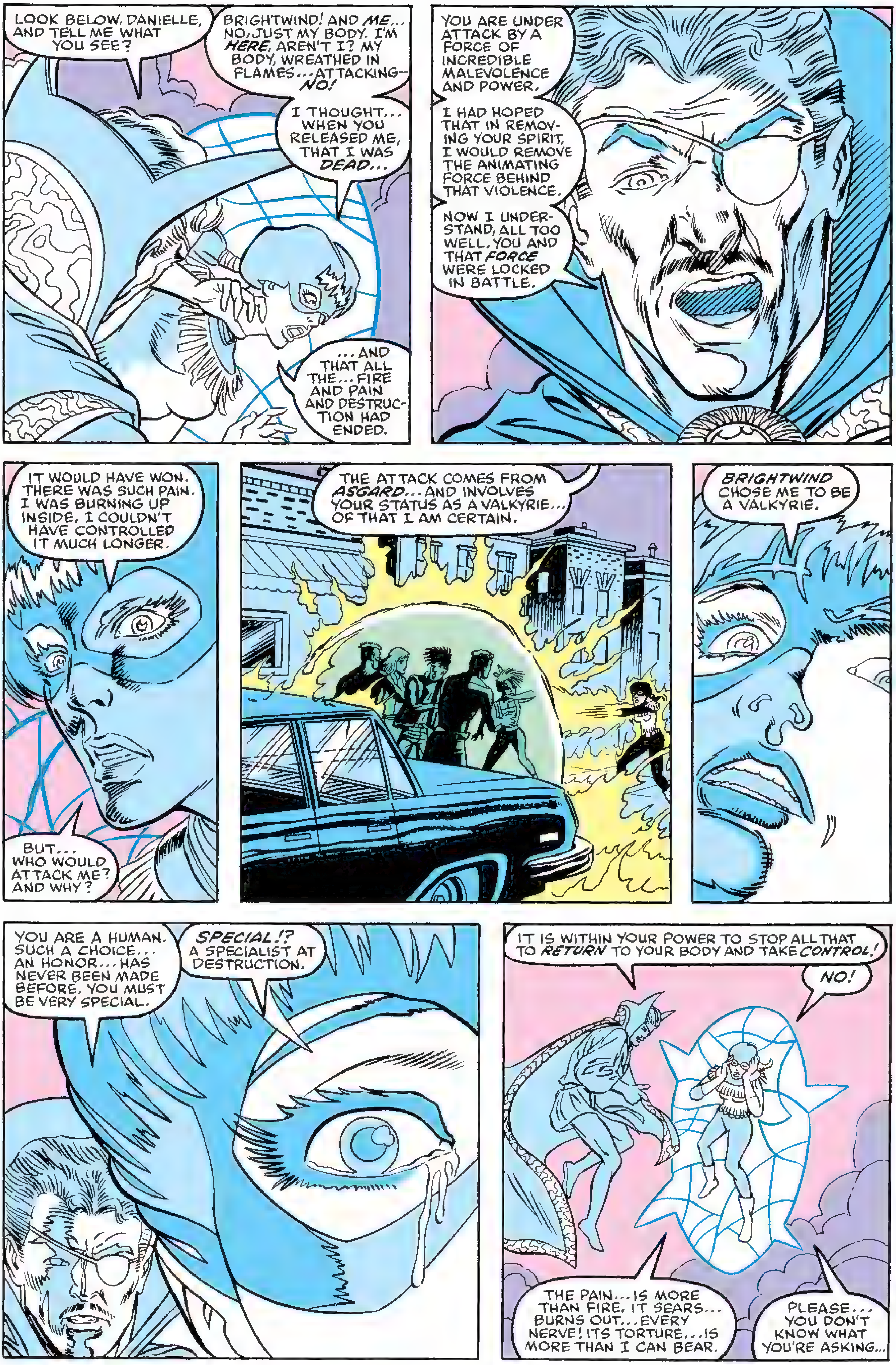

AH'M INVULNERABLE, LONG AS AH KEEP BLASTIN'!
EVEN AS I WATCH, THE *DEMON-HORSE* AND *RIDER* DIVE TO ATTACK THOSE BELOW.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE FAR FROM HELPLESS, BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT THEIR POWER WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.
PAWN
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA STOP 'EM, SO AH GUESS AH'M ELECTED! MAYBE IF AH TACKLE DANI OFF THE HORSE...?
EVEN WITHOUT DANI TO GUIDE HIM, BRIGHTWIND'S ATTACKING!
EVERYBODY-- *MOVE!*
SKIDS--THROW UP YOUR DEFLECTOR SHIELD! EVERYBODY GET INSIDE--*NOW!*
BRIGHTWIND'S WHEELING, COMING BACK FOR ANOTHER SHOT!
WE NEED SOMETHING TO CAPTURE AND HOLD HIM. SOMETHING *FIRE-RESISTANT*.

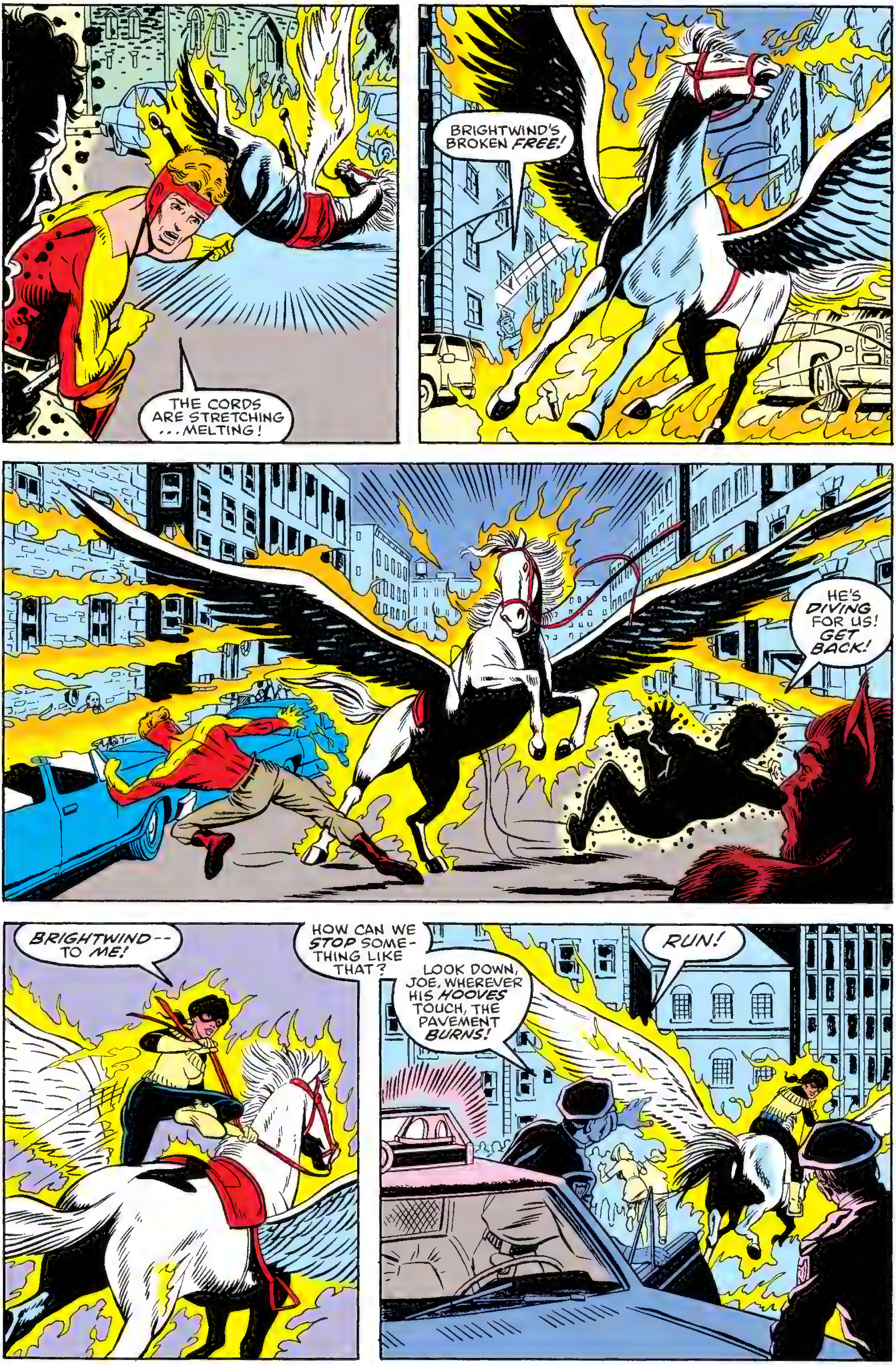

LIKE THIS IRON *RAILING!* A LITTLE FLAME OF MY OWN SHOULD LET ME SOFTEN AND *STRETCH* IT INTO *WIRE!*
SELF WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE!
CAREFUL, 'LOCK, THE ROPE'S STILL *RED HOT!*
BUT NOT TOO HOT FOR *SELF* TO HANDLE!
SELF WILL LASSO AND HOBBLE BRIGHTWIND LIKE COWBOY IN *RODEO* VIDEO!
WAY TO GO, 'LOCK!
NO! THE ROPE'S GLOWING RED-HOT AND STRETCHING. HIS WINGS ARE FREE!
WHOA! RUSTY'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM! BRIGHTWIND'S LIFTING HIM OFF THE GROUND!
IF HE GOES FREE, HE'LL TORCH THE *CITY!*
THANKS, MAN.
SSSSSSSSSS
BOBBY, *NO!* THE WIRE'S BURNING! YOUR *HANDS*--!

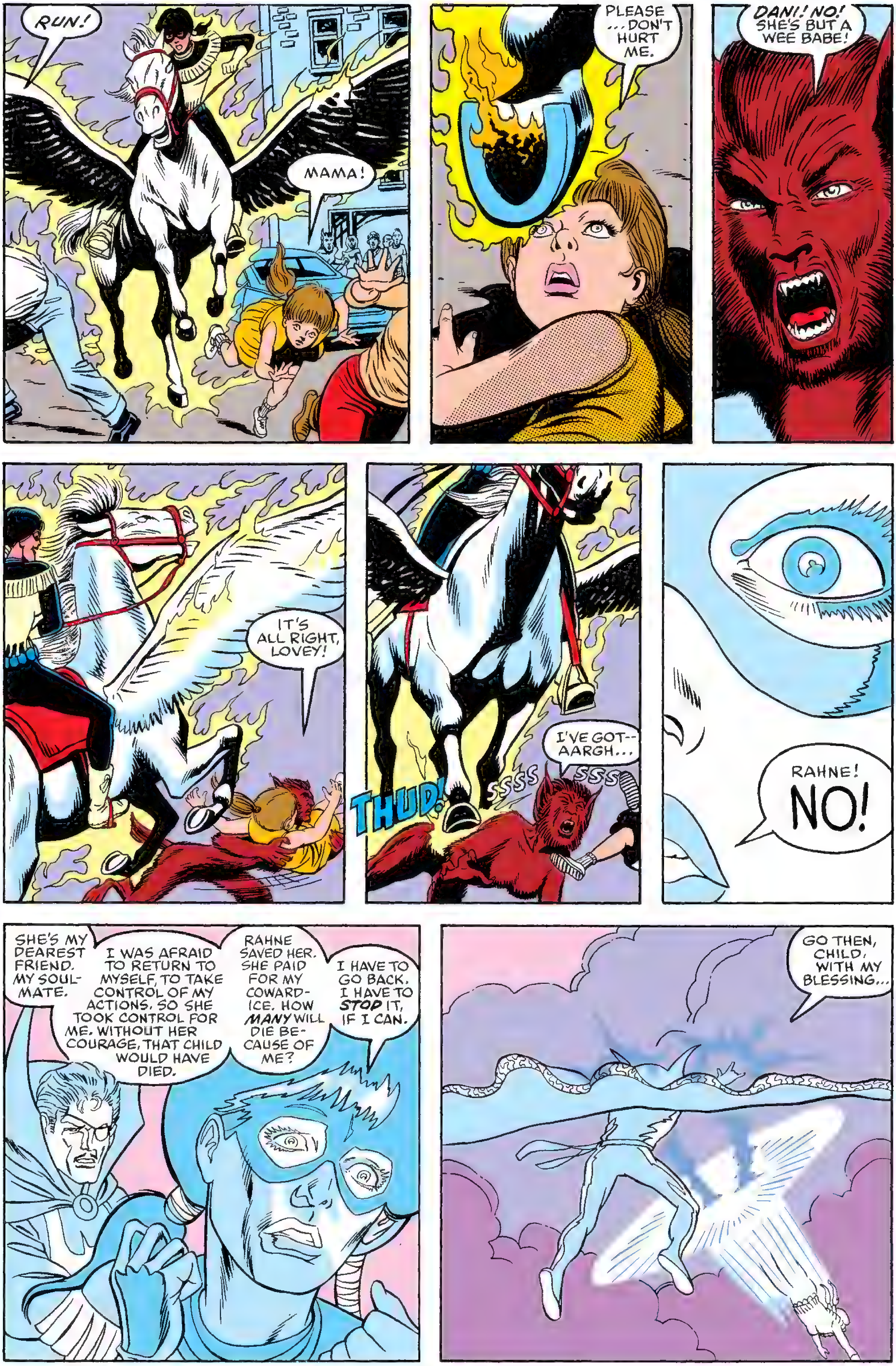

BETTER... MY HANDS... THAN THE... THE CITY!
THUD!
MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE VILLAGE STREETS...
DANI, YOU'RE BLOCKIN' MY EYES! AH CAN'T SEE TO STEER!
IF YOU REALLY ARE DANI, WHICH AH'M SERIOUSLY BEGINNIN' TA DOUBT.
AN' IF YOU'RE NOT DANI, PROBABLY THE LAST THING YOU'RE WANTIN' ME TA DO IS SEE--
WHAK!
OH, GROSS! KEEP BLASTING, SAM, OR HER FIRE WILL FRY YOU!
HEY, FIRE! AND A HYDRANT! AND I GOT THE STUFF THAT'LL ACCESS WHAT'S INSIDE!
...3 ...2 ...1...
BOOOOM!
SPLOOSH!

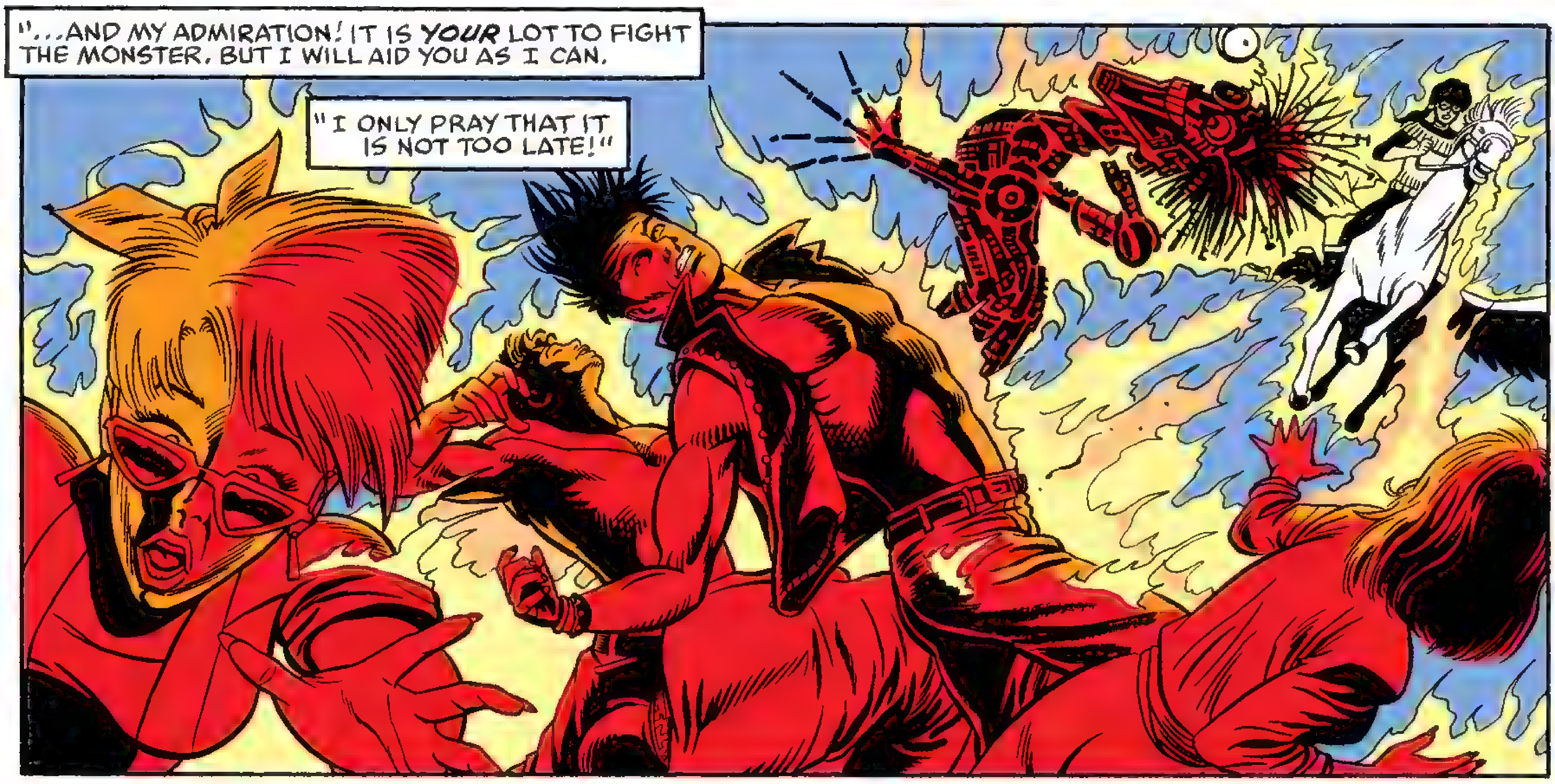

DANI'S FIRE ISN'T GOING OUT! AND AS THE *WATER* HITS IT, IT TURNS TO *STEAM!*
SAM'LL BE *SCALDED!*
UNLESS... I CAN PROTECT HIM!
HE'S *RED*... HIS SKIN'S ALREADY BEGINNING TO *BLISTER!*
SKIDS! BEHIND YOU!
YOU SEEK TO STEAL FROM ME *ONE* PREY!
FOOLISH CHILD! IN DOING SO, YOU HAVE LEFT THE OTHERS OPEN TO MY *ATTACK!*
DON'T COUNT ON IT, SULFUR BREATH!
RUMBLE!
SELFRIEN*DANI!* LET SELF HELP--
KEEP BACK, 'LOCK! WHATEVER THAT THING IS...
...IT AIN'T *DANI!*
HSSSSSSSS!

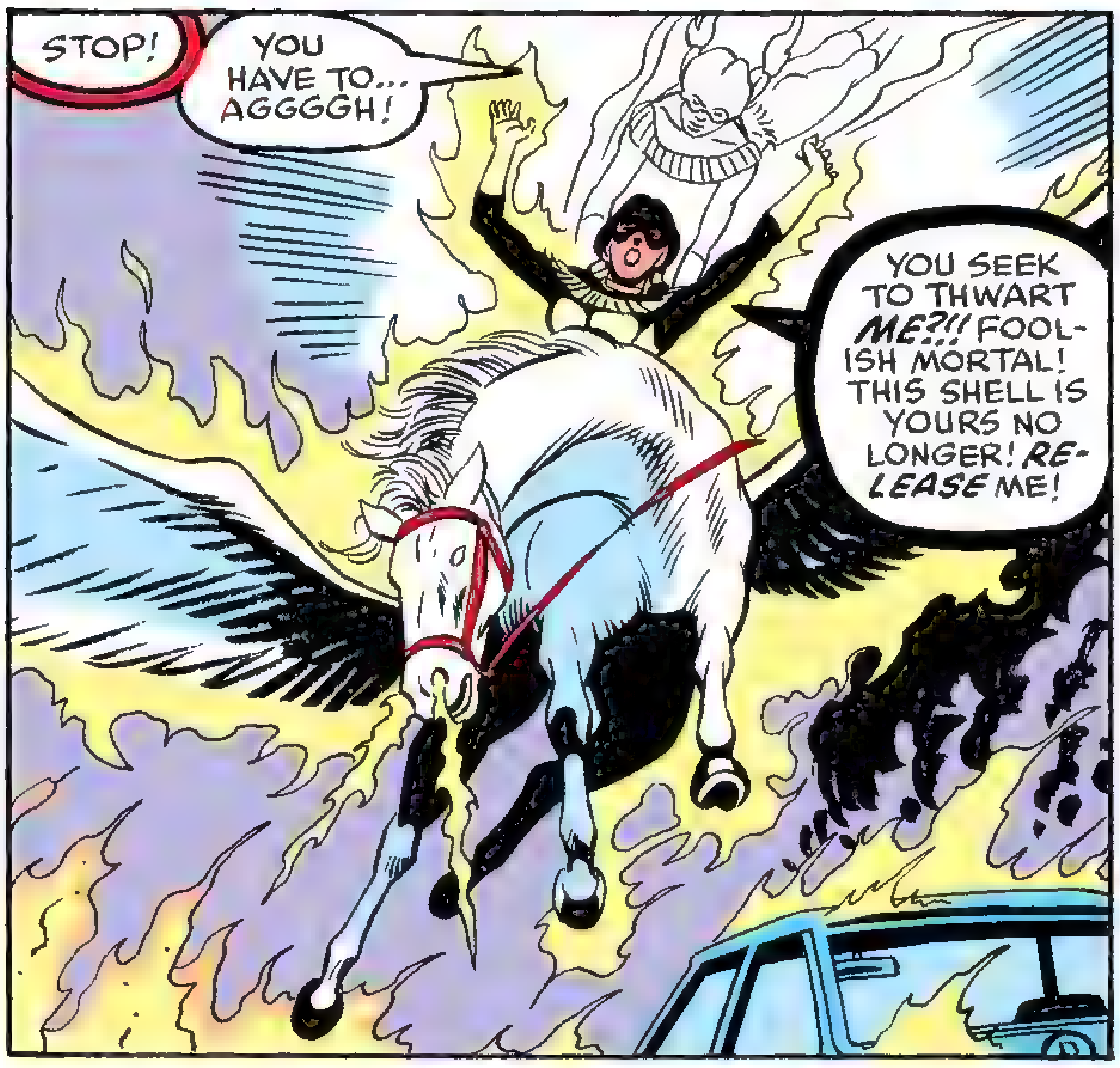

WHILE ON THE ASTRAL PLANE...
YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH MUCH, CHILD, AND IN TRUTH, YOU HAVE HAD MUCH TO FEAR. BUT THAT IS BEHIND YOU... FOR A WHILE.
UNCURL FROM YOUR RETREAT! RELAX. LOOK AT ME. LET ME HELP--
NO! NO MORE PAIN! I CAN'T ENDURE IT! GET AWAY FROM ME! DON'T TOUCH ME! YOU CAN'T HELP ME!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
A DREAM SPEAR... HURLED AT MY HEART! AND YET--
ANYTHING AT ALL!
YOU STOPPED IT. BUT HOW?
YOUR CONJURINGS OBEY THE DICTATES OF YOUR HEART.
IT IS NOT ME YOU WISH TO HARM. NOW, LET THE HANDS OF CYTORRAK HOLD YOU!
I...I CAN'T MOVE! LET ME GO! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
I HAVE PULLED YOUR... SOUL, IF YOU WILL... ONTO THE ASTRAL PLANE.
THE FIRE--?
THAT WAS NOT MY DOING! ANSWER ME, CHILD. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
DANIELLE MOONSTAR.
MY NAME IS DOCTOR STRANGE... AND ON THE ASTRAL PLANE, MY CONJURINGS ARE SUPREME!
I HAVE GIVEN YOU RESPITE FROM YOUR PAIN ...FOR NOW.
YOU ARE A MUTANT... AND, ODDLY ENOUGH, A VALKYRIE, OF SORTS. AND... WHAT ELSE...?

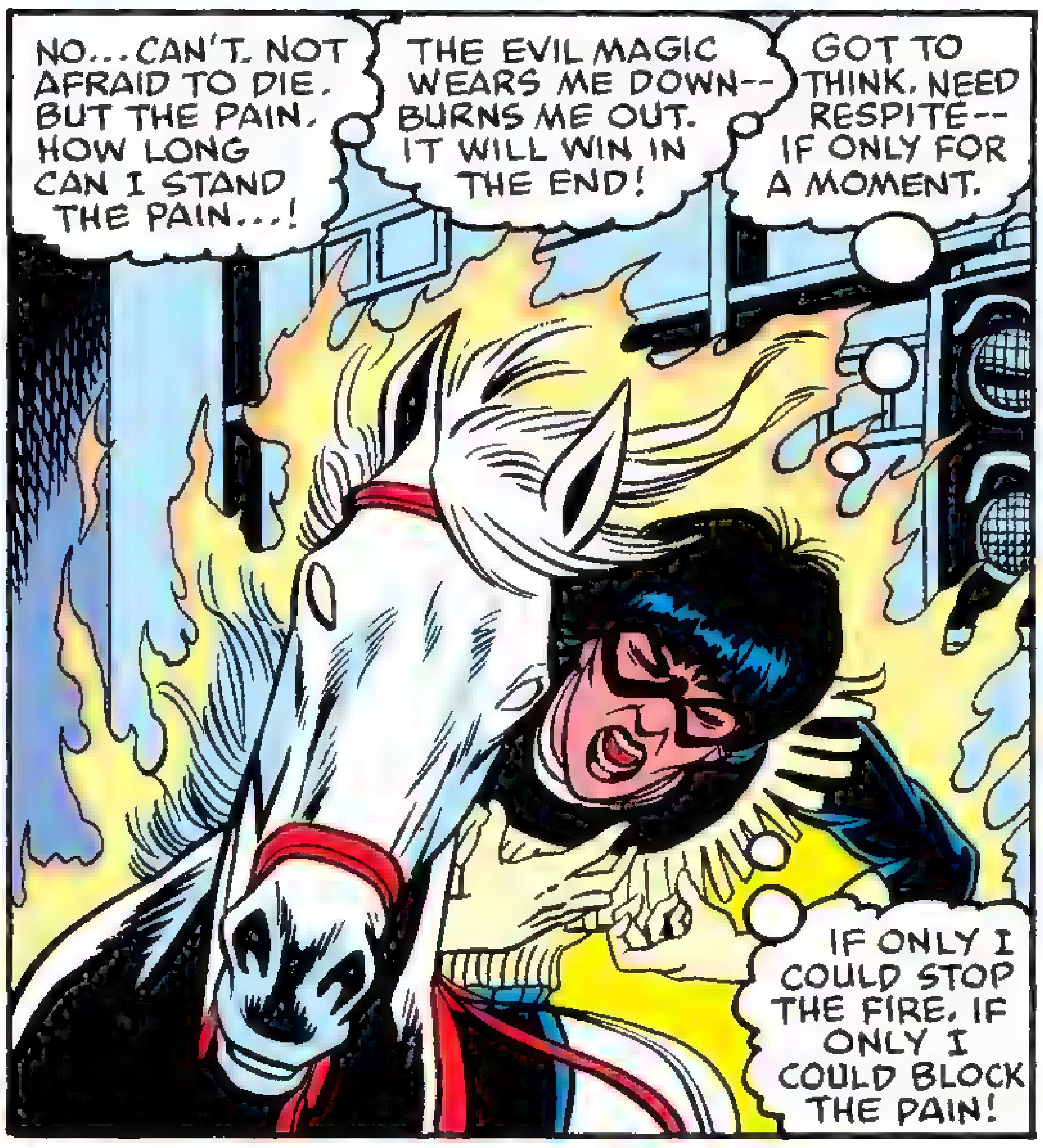

LOOK BELOW, DANIELLE, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE?
BRIGHTWIND! AND *ME*... NO, JUST MY BODY. I'M *HERE*, AREN'T I? MY BODY, WREATHED IN FLAMES... ATTACKING-- *NO!*
I THOUGHT... WHEN YOU RELEASED ME, THAT I WAS *DEAD*...
...AND THAT ALL THE... FIRE AND PAIN AND DESTRUCTION HAD ENDED.
YOU ARE UNDER ATTACK BY A FORCE OF INCREDIBLE MALEVOLENCE AND POWER.
I HAD HOPED THAT IN REMOVING YOUR SPIRIT, I WOULD REMOVE THE ANIMATING FORCE BEHIND THAT VIOLENCE.
NOW I UNDERSTAND, ALL TOO WELL, YOU AND THAT *FORCE* WERE LOCKED IN BATTLE.
IT WOULD HAVE WON. THERE WAS SUCH PAIN. I WAS BURNING UP INSIDE. I COULDN'T HAVE CONTROLLED IT MUCH LONGER.
BUT... WHO WOULD ATTACK ME? AND WHY?
THE ATTACK COMES FROM *ASGARD*... AND INVOLVES YOUR STATUS AS A VALKYRIE... OF THAT I AM CERTAIN.
BRIGHTWIND CHOSE ME TO BE A VALKYRIE.
YOU ARE A HUMAN. SUCH A CHOICE... AN HONOR... HAS NEVER BEEN MADE BEFORE. YOU MUST BE VERY SPECIAL.
SPECIAL!? A SPECIALIST AT DESTRUCTION.
IT IS WITHIN YOUR POWER TO STOP ALL THAT TO *RETURN* TO YOUR BODY AND TAKE *CONTROL!*
NO!
THE PAIN... IS MORE THAN FIRE. IT SEARS... BURNS OUT... EVERY NERVE! ITS TORTURE... IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.
PLEASE... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING...

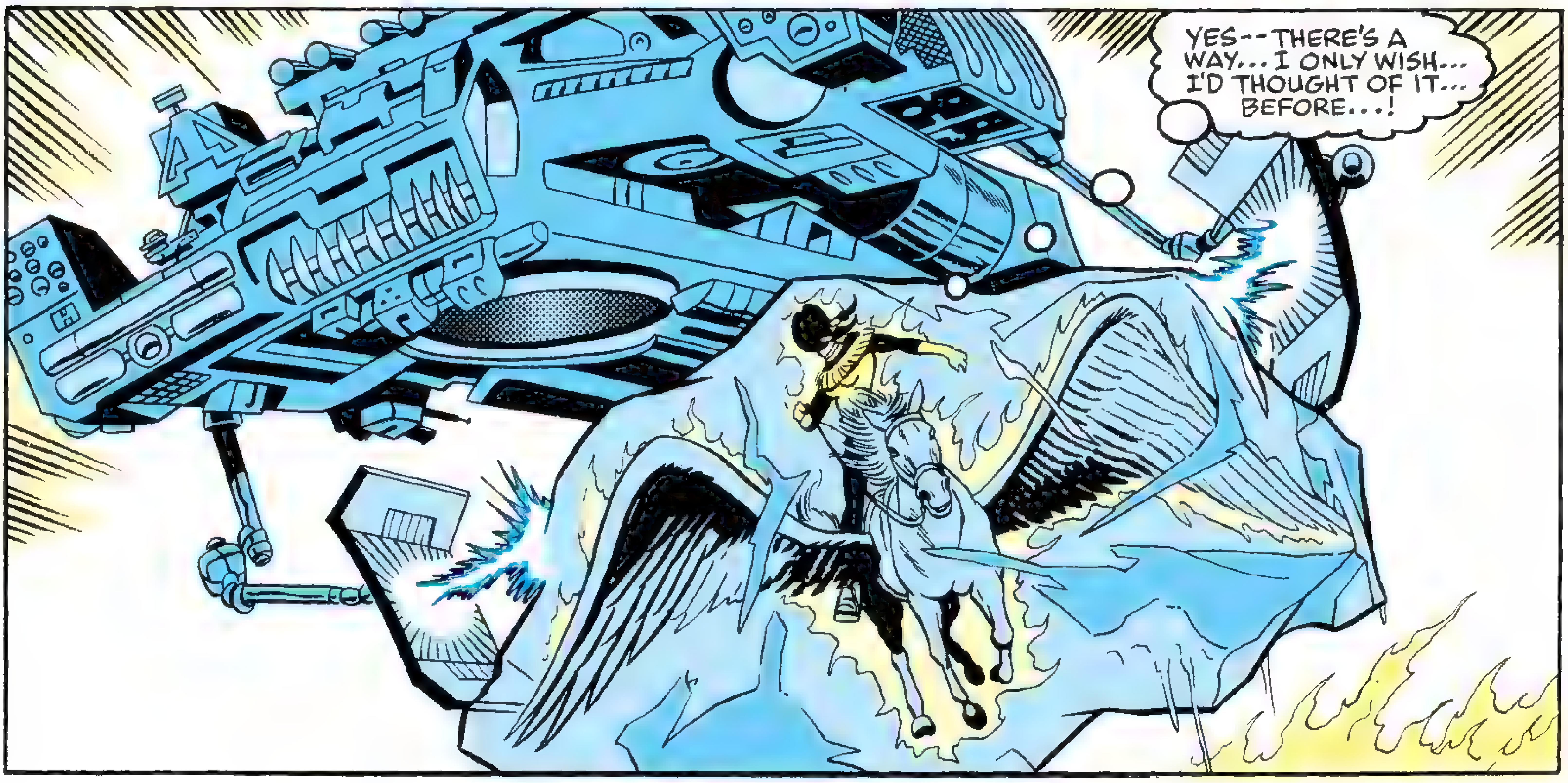

THE CORDS ARE STRETCHING ...MELTING!
BRIGHTWIND'S BROKEN *FREE!*
HE'S *DIVING* FOR US! *GET BACK!*
BRIGHTWIND -- TO *ME!*
HOW CAN WE *STOP* SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
LOOK DOWN, JOE, WHEREVER HIS *HOOVES* TOUCH, THE PAVEMENT *BURNS!*
RUN!

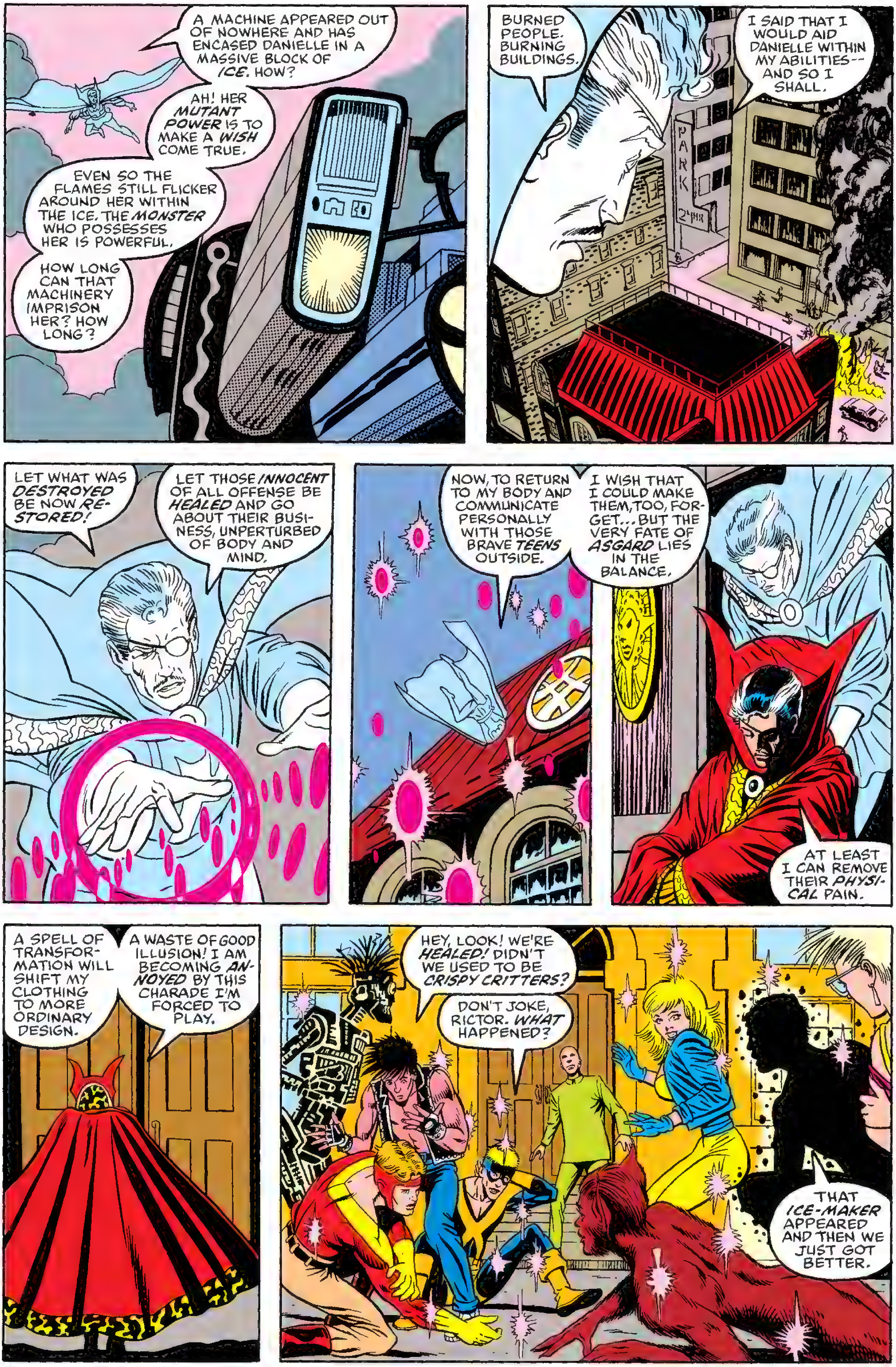

RUN!
MAMA!
PLEASE ...DON'T HURT ME.
DANI! NO! SHE'S BUT A WEE BABE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LOVEY!
THUD!
SSSS
I'VE GOT-- AARGH...
SSSS
RAHNE! NO!
SHE'S MY DEAREST FRIEND. MY SOUL-MATE.
I WAS AFRAID TO RETURN TO MYSELF, TO TAKE CONTROL OF MY ACTIONS. SO SHE TOOK CONTROL FOR ME. WITHOUT HER COURAGE, THAT CHILD WOULD HAVE DIED.
RAHNE SAVED HER. SHE PAID FOR MY COWARDICE. HOW *MANY* WILL DIE BECAUSE OF ME?
I HAVE TO GO BACK. I HAVE TO *STOP* IT, IF I CAN.
GO THEN, CHILD, WITH MY BLESSING...

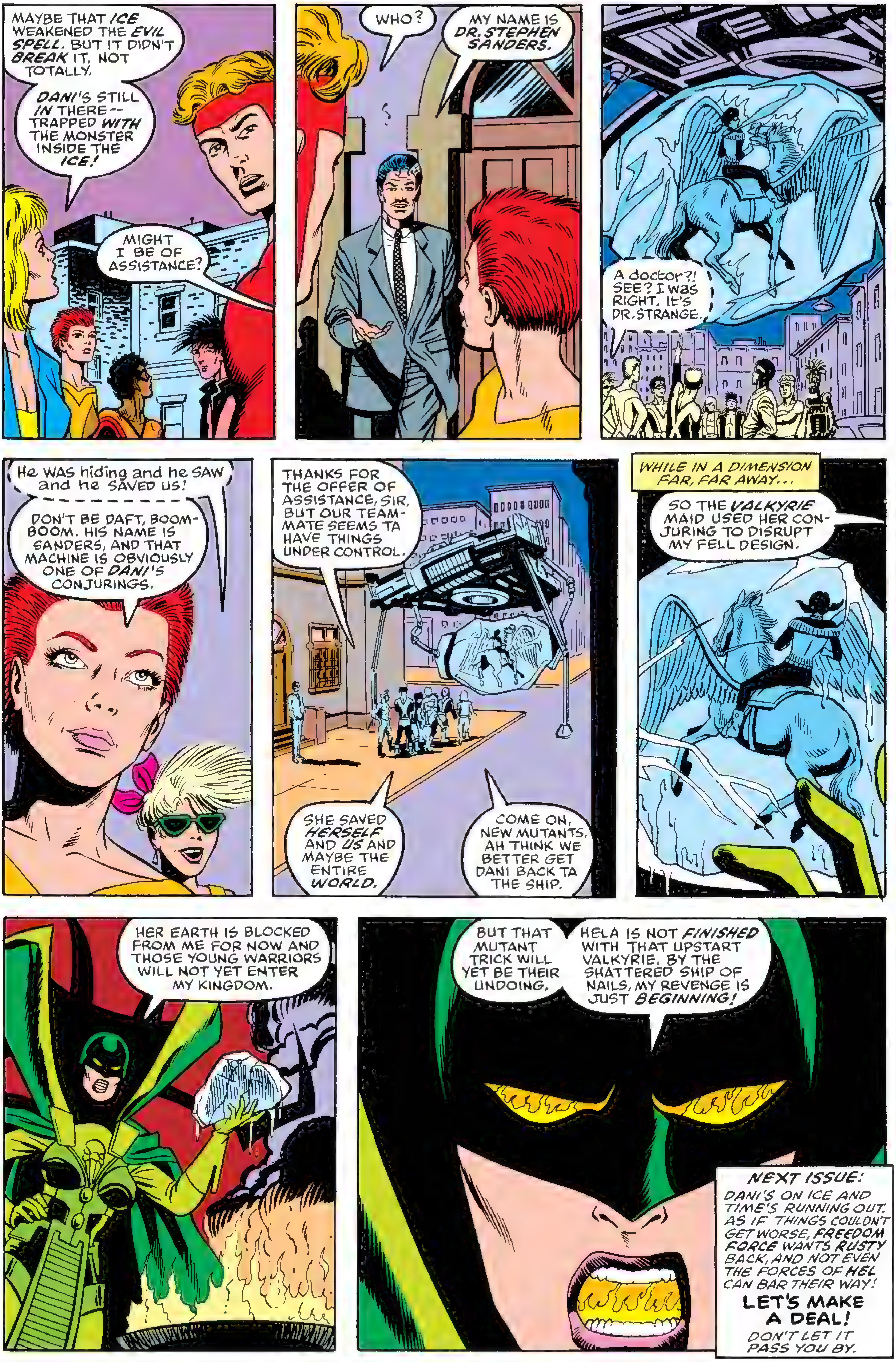

"...AND MY ADMIRATION! IT IS *YOUR* LOT TO FIGHT THE MONSTER. BUT I WILL AID YOU AS I CAN.
"I ONLY PRAY THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE!"


STOP!
YOU HAVE TO... AGGGGH!
YOU SEEK TO THWART *ME?!!* FOOLISH MORTAL! THIS SHELL IS YOURS NO LONGER! *RELEASE* ME!


NO... CAN'T. NOT AFRAID TO DIE. BUT THE PAIN. HOW LONG CAN I STAND THE PAIN...!
THE EVIL MAGIC WEARS ME DOWN-- BURNS ME OUT. IT WILL WIN IN THE END!
GOT TO THINK. NEED RESPITE-- IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.
IF ONLY I COULD STOP THE FIRE. IF ONLY I COULD BLOCK THE PAIN!


YES--THERE'S A WAY... I ONLY WISH... I'D THOUGHT OF IT... BEFORE...!


A MACHINE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE AND HAS ENCASED DANIELLE IN A MASSIVE BLOCK OF *ICE*. HOW?
AH! HER *MUTANT POWER* IS TO MAKE A *WISH* COME TRUE.
EVEN SO THE FLAMES STILL FLICKER AROUND HER WITHIN THE ICE. THE *MONSTER* WHO POSSESSES HER IS POWERFUL.
HOW LONG CAN THAT MACHINERY IMPRISON HER? HOW LONG?
BURNED PEOPLE. BURNING BUILDINGS.
I SAID THAT I WOULD AID DANIELLE WITHIN MY ABILITIES-- AND SO I SHALL.
PARK
LET WHAT WAS *DESTROYED* BE NOW *RESTORED!*
LET THOSE *INNOCENT* OF ALL OFFENSE BE *HEALED* AND GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, UNPERTURBED OF BODY AND MIND.
NOW, TO RETURN TO MY BODY AND COMMUNICATE PERSONALLY WITH THOSE BRAVE *TEENS* OUTSIDE.
I WISH THAT I COULD MAKE THEM, TOO, FORGET... BUT THE VERY FATE OF *ASGARD* LIES IN THE BALANCE.
AT LEAST I CAN REMOVE THEIR *PHYSICAL* PAIN.
A SPELL OF TRANSFORMATION WILL SHIFT MY CLOTHING TO MORE ORDINARY DESIGN.
A WASTE OF GOOD ILLUSION! I AM BECOMING *ANNOYED* BY THIS CHARADE I'M FORCED TO PLAY.
HEY, LOOK! WE'RE *HEALED!* DIDN'T WE USED TO BE *CRISPY CRITTERS?*
DON'T JOKE, RICTOR. *WHAT* HAPPENED?
THAT *ICE-MAKER* APPEARED AND THEN WE JUST GOT BETTER.


MAYBE THAT ICE WEAKENED THE EVIL SPELL. BUT IT DIDN'T BREAK IT, NOT TOTALLY.
DANI'S STILL IN THERE -- TRAPPED WITH THE MONSTER INSIDE THE ICE!
MIGHT I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
WHO?
MY NAME IS DR. STEPHEN SANDERS.
A doctor?! SEE? I was RIGHT. It's DR. STRANGE.
He WAS hiding and he SAW and he SAVED us!
DON'T BE DAFT, BOOM-BOOM. HIS NAME IS SANDERS, AND THAT MACHINE IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF DANI'S CONJURINGS.
THANKS FOR THE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE, SIR, BUT OUR TEAMMATE SEEMS TA HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL.
SHE SAVED HERSELF AND US AND MAYBE THE ENTIRE WORLD.
COME ON, NEW MUTANTS. AH THINK WE BETTER GET DANI BACK TA THE SHIP.
WHILE IN A DIMENSION FAR, FAR AWAY...
SO THE VALKYRIE MAID USED HER CONJURING TO DISRUPT MY FELL DESIGN.
HER EARTH IS BLOCKED FROM ME FOR NOW AND THOSE YOUNG WARRIORS WILL NOT YET ENTER MY KINGDOM.
BUT THAT MUTANT TRICK WILL YET BE THEIR UNDOING.
HELA IS NOT FINISHED WITH THAT UPSTART VALKYRIE. BY THE SHATTERED SHIP OF NAILS, MY REVENGE IS JUST BEGINNING!
NEXT ISSUE:
DANI'S ON ICE AND TIME'S RUNNING OUT. AS IF THINGS COULDN'T GET WORSE, FREEDOM FORCE WANTS RUSTY BACK, AND NOT EVEN THE FORCES OF HEL CAN BAR THEIR WAY!
LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
DON'T LET IT PASS YOU BY.

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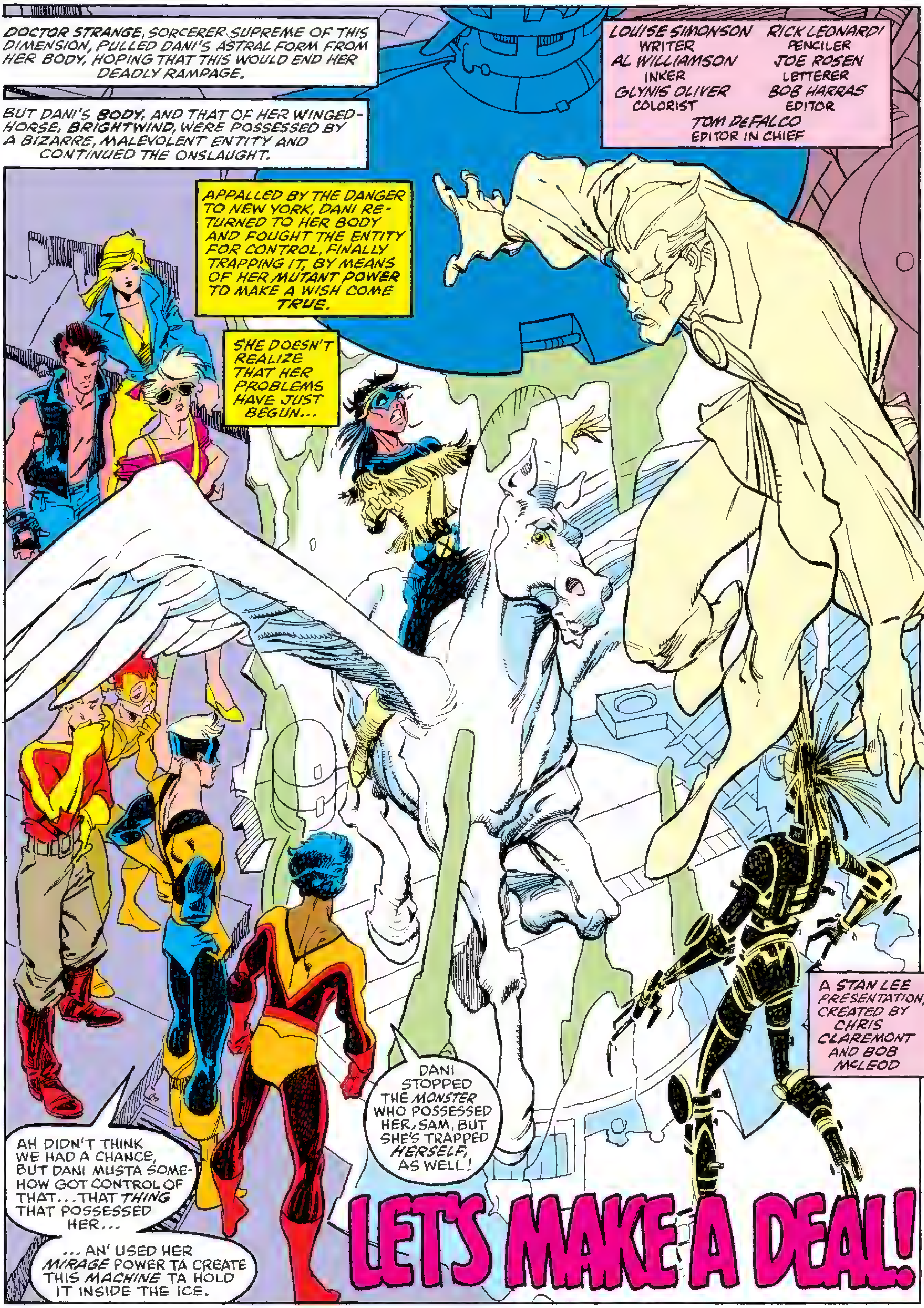
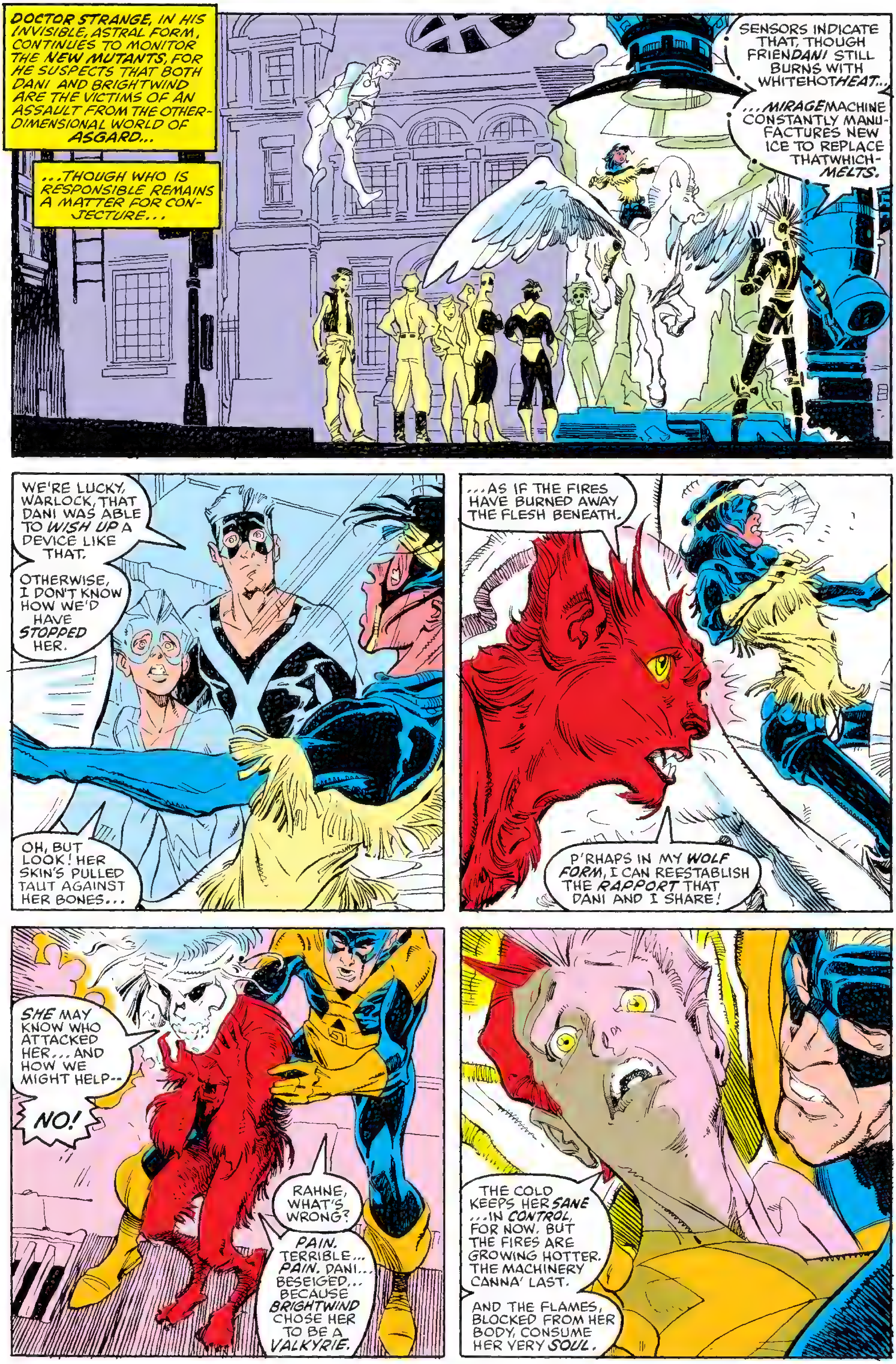
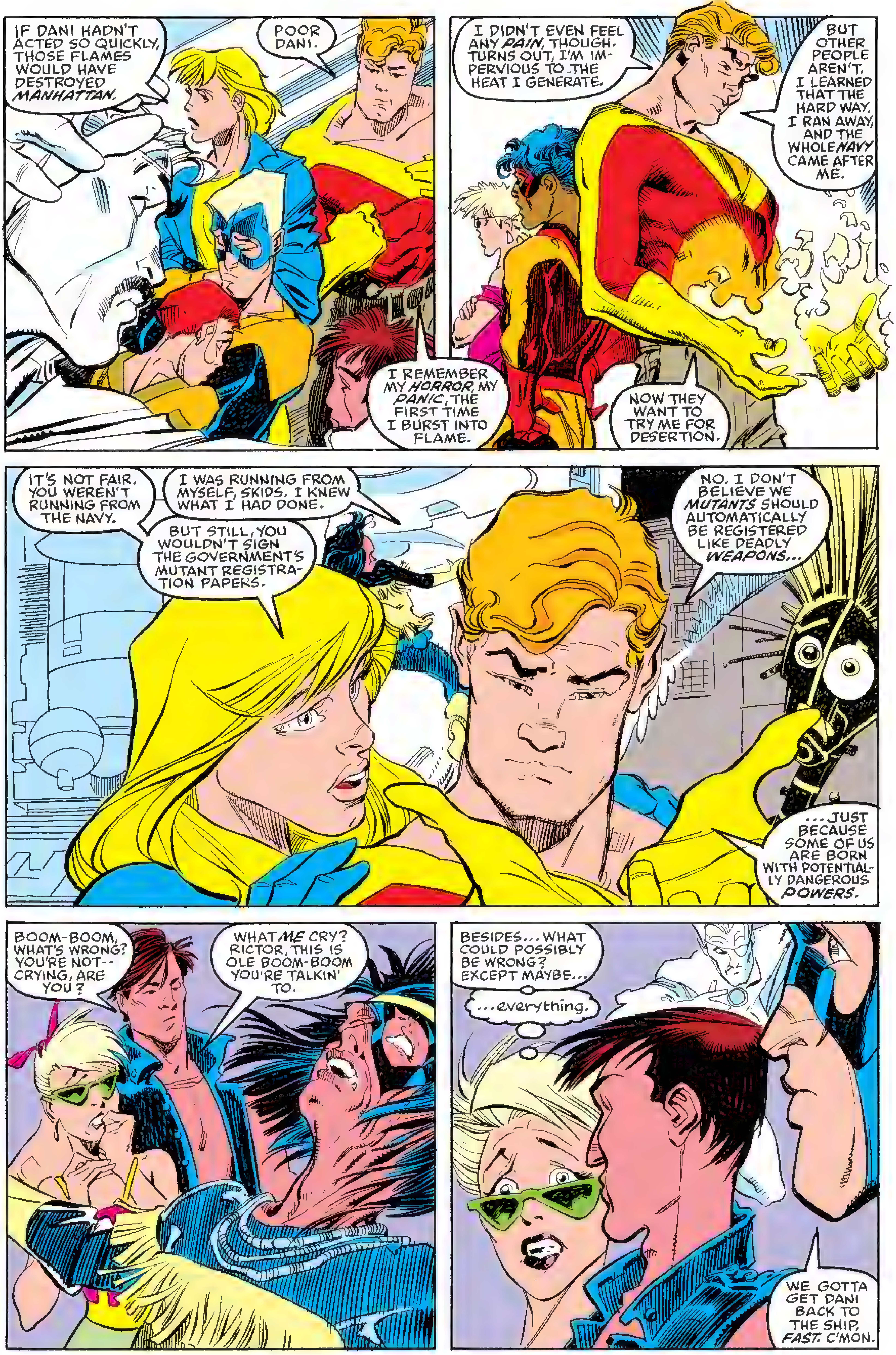
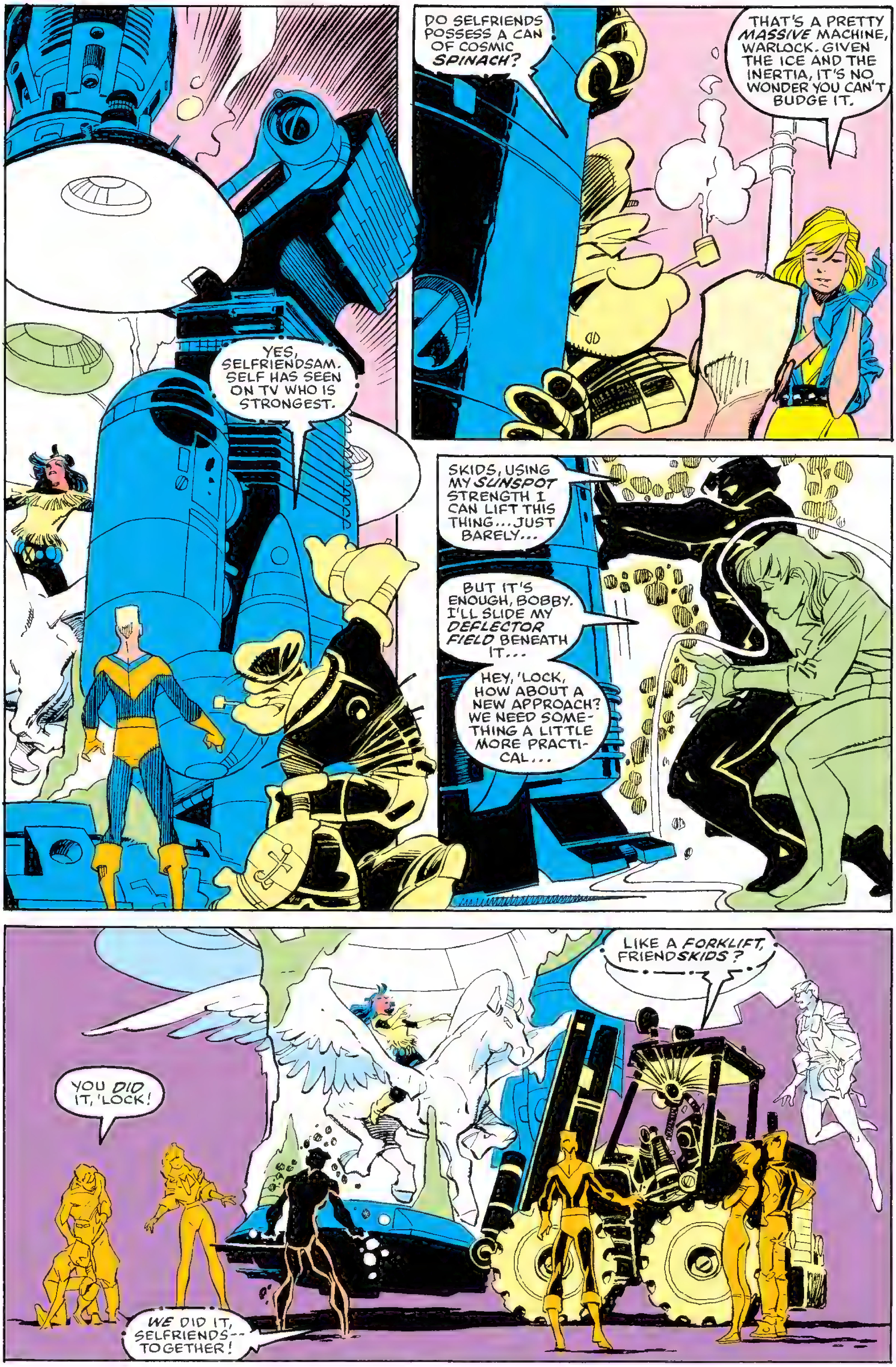
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
LEONARDI WILLIAMSON

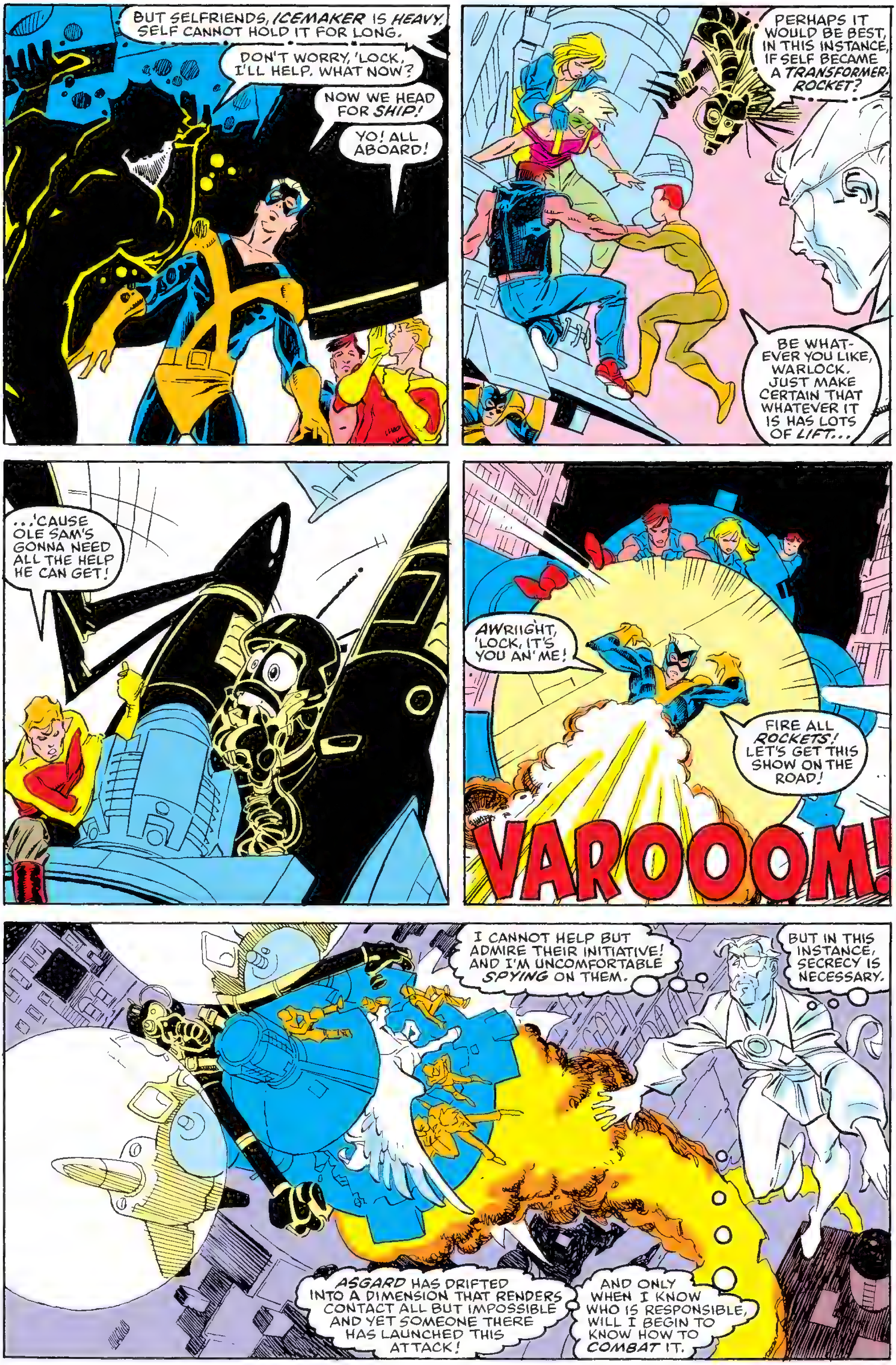
LAST ISSUE ***DANIELLE MOONSTAR*** *BURST INTO ELDRITCH FLAME AND ATTACKED HER TEAM-MATES, THE* ***NEW MUTANTS.***

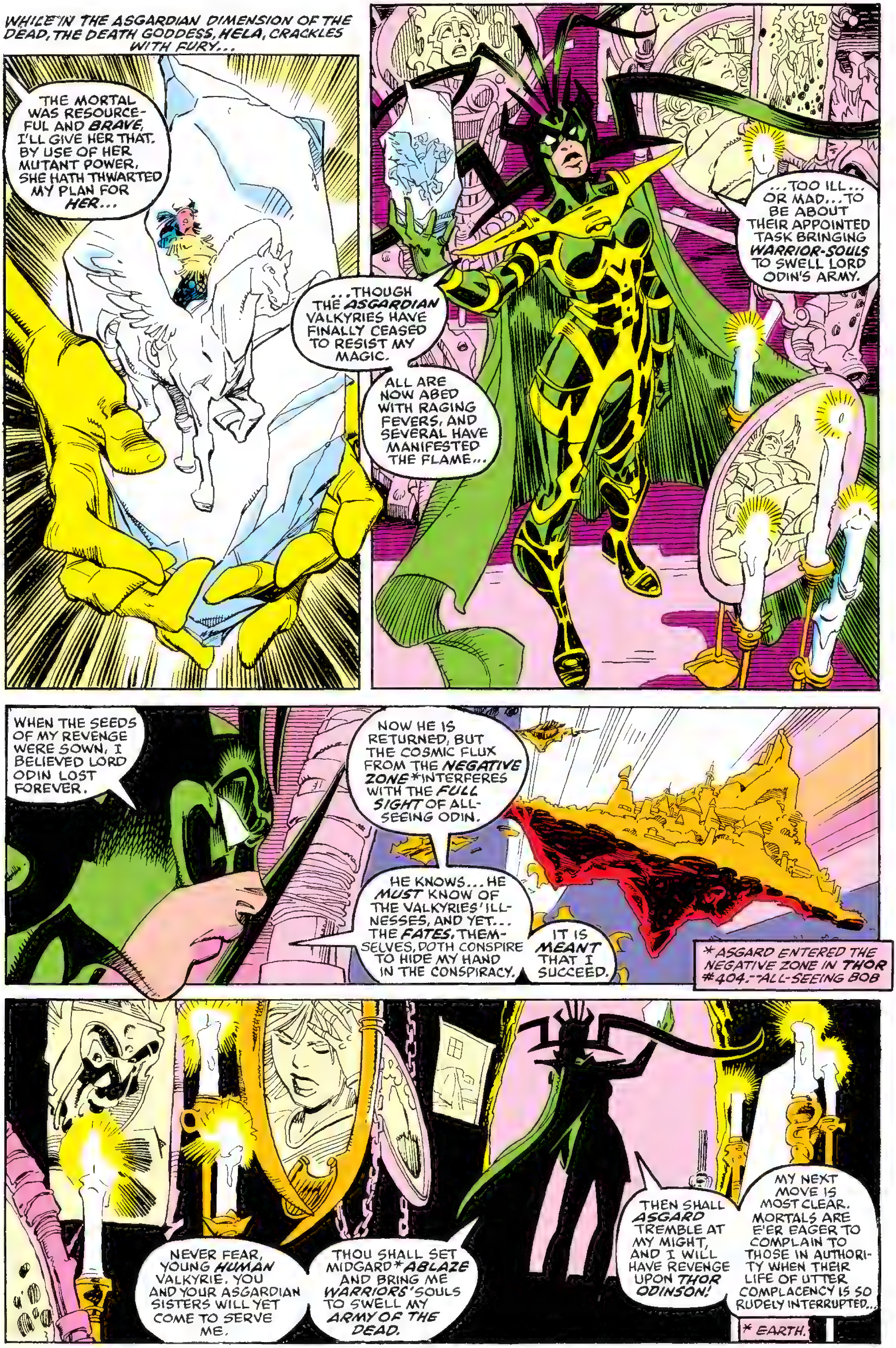

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME OF THIS DIMENSION, PULLED DANI'S ASTRAL FORM FROM HER BODY, HOPING THAT THIS WOULD END HER DEADLY RAMPAGE.
BUT DANI'S BODY, AND THAT OF HER WINGED-HORSE, BRIGHTWIND, WERE POSSESSED BY A BIZARRE, MALEVOLENT ENTITY AND CONTINUED THE ONSLAUGHT.
APPALLED BY THE DANGER TO NEW YORK, DANI RETURNED TO HER BODY AND FOUGHT THE ENTITY FOR CONTROL, FINALLY TRAPPING IT, BY MEANS OF HER MUTANT POWER TO MAKE A WISH COME TRUE.
SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT HER PROBLEMS HAVE JUST BEGUN...
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
RICK LEONARDI PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION, CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD
DANI STOPPED THE MONSTER WHO POSSESSED HER, SAM, BUT SHE'S TRAPPED HERSELF, AS WELL!
AH DIDN'T THINK WE HAD A CHANCE, BUT DANI MUSTA SOMEHOW GOT CONTROL OF THAT...THAT THING THAT POSSESSED HER...
...AN' USED HER MIRAGE POWER TA CREATE THIS MACHINE TA HOLD IT INSIDE THE ICE.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL!

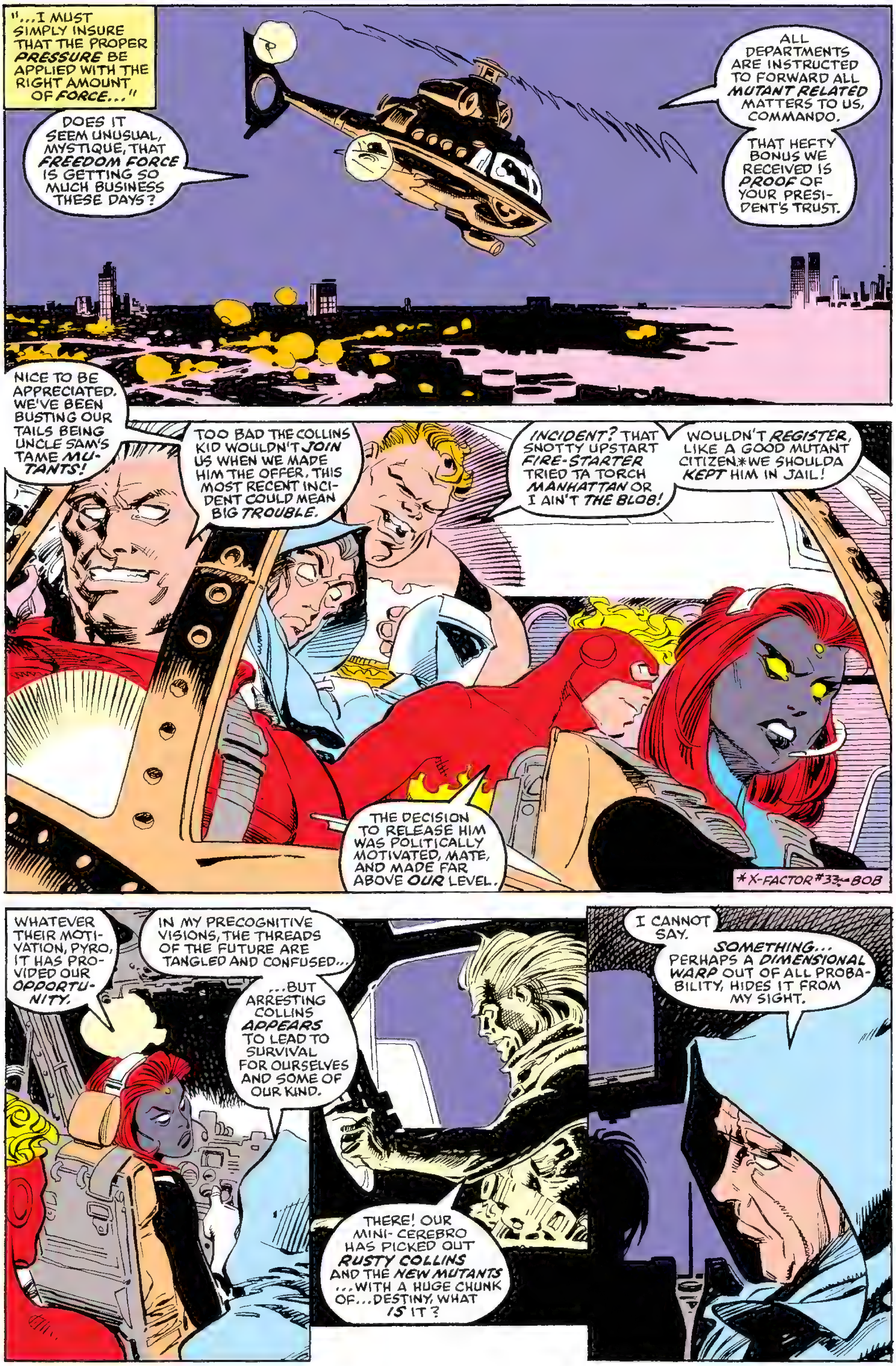

DOCTOR STRANGE, IN HIS INVISIBLE, ASTRAL FORM, CONTINUES TO MONITOR THE NEW MUTANTS, FOR HE SUSPECTS THAT BOTH DANI AND BRIGHTWIND ARE THE VICTIMS OF AN ASSAULT FROM THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL WORLD OF ASGARD...
...THOUGH WHO IS RESPONSIBLE REMAINS A MATTER FOR CONJECTURE...
SENSORS INDICATE THAT, THOUGH FRIENDDANI STILL BURNS WITH WHITEHOTHEAT...
...MIRAGEMACHINE CONSTANTLY MANUFACTURES NEW ICE TO REPLACE THATWHICH-MELTS.
WE'RE LUCKY, WARLOCK, THAT DANI WAS ABLE TO WISH UP A DEVICE LIKE THAT.
OTHERWISE, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'D HAVE STOPPED HER.
OH, BUT LOOK! HER SKIN'S PULLED TAUT AGAINST HER BONES...
...AS IF THE FIRES HAVE BURNED AWAY THE FLESH BENEATH.
P'RHAPS IN MY WOLF FORM, I CAN REESTABLISH THE RAPPORT THAT DANI AND I SHARE!
SHE MAY KNOW WHO ATTACKED HER... AND HOW WE MIGHT HELP--
NO!
RAHNE, WHAT'S WRONG?
PAIN. TERRIBLE... PAIN. DANI... BESEIGED... BECAUSE BRIGHTWIND CHOSE HER TO BE A VALKYRIE.
THE COLD KEEPS HER SANE ...IN CONTROL, FOR NOW. BUT THE FIRES ARE GROWING HOTTER. THE MACHINERY CANNA' LAST.
AND THE FLAMES, BLOCKED FROM HER BODY, CONSUME HER VERY SOUL.

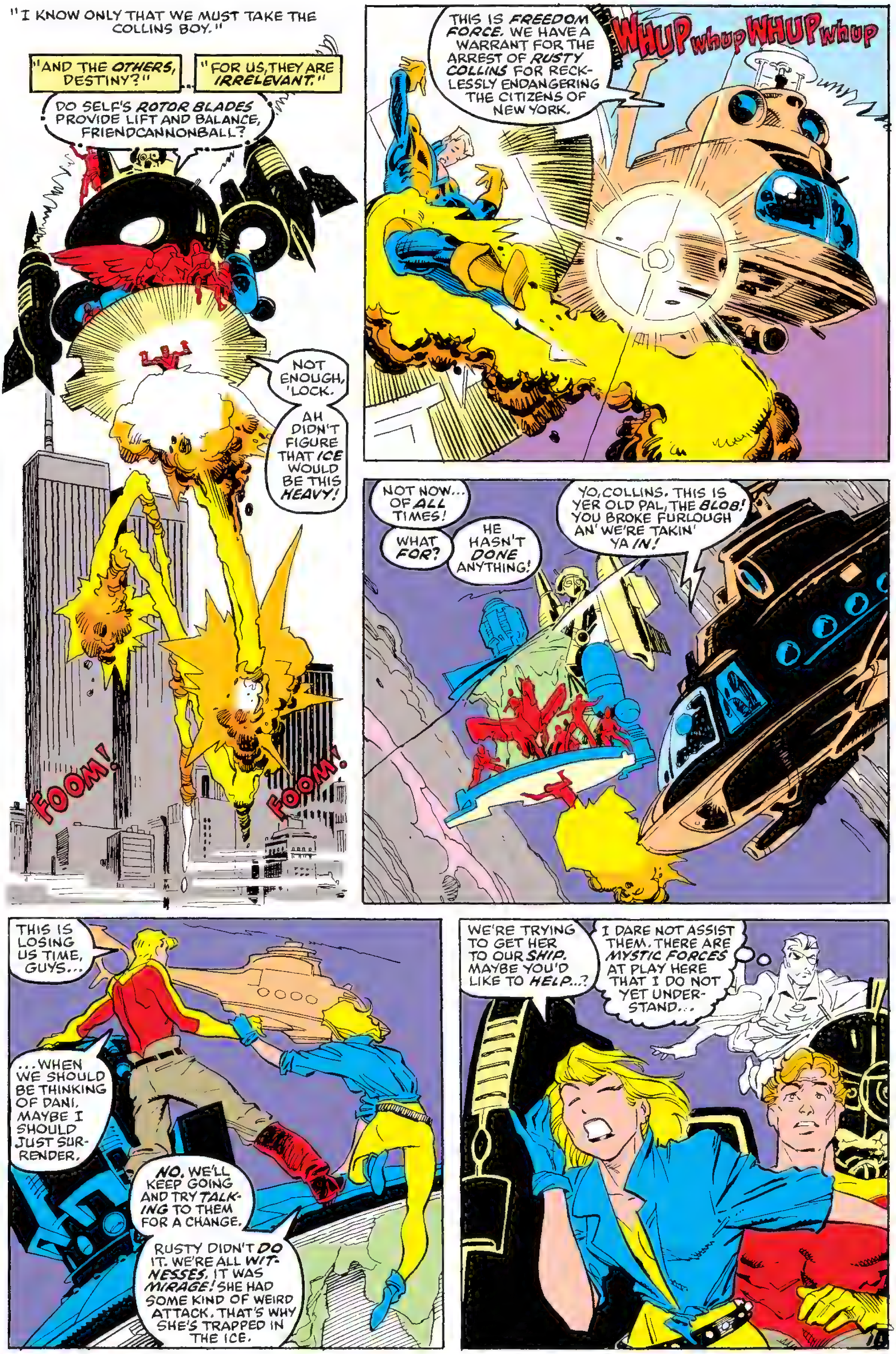

IF DANI HADN'T ACTED SO QUICKLY, THOSE FLAMES WOULD HAVE DESTROYED *MANHATTAN*.
POOR DANI.
I REMEMBER MY *HORROR*, MY *PANIC*, THE FIRST TIME I BURST INTO FLAME.
I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL ANY *PAIN*, THOUGH. TURNS OUT, I'M IMPERVIOUS TO THE HEAT I GENERATE.
BUT OTHER PEOPLE AREN'T. I LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY. I RAN AWAY, AND THE WHOLE *NAVY* CAME AFTER ME.
NOW THEY WANT TO TRY ME FOR DESERTION.
IT'S NOT FAIR. YOU WEREN'T RUNNING FROM THE NAVY.
I WAS RUNNING FROM MYSELF, SKIDS. I KNEW WHAT I HAD DONE.
BUT STILL, YOU WOULDN'T SIGN THE GOVERNMENT'S MUTANT REGISTRATION PAPERS.
NO. I DON'T BELIEVE WE *MUTANTS* SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE REGISTERED LIKE DEADLY *WEAPONS*...
...JUST BECAUSE SOME OF US ARE BORN WITH POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS *POWERS*.
BOOM-BOOM, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE NOT-- CRYING, ARE YOU?
WHAT *ME* CRY? RICTOR, THIS IS OLE BOOM-BOOM YOU'RE TALKIN' TO.
BESIDES... WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG? EXCEPT MAYBE...
...everything.
WE GOTTA GET DANI BACK TO THE SHIP, *FAST*. C'MON.

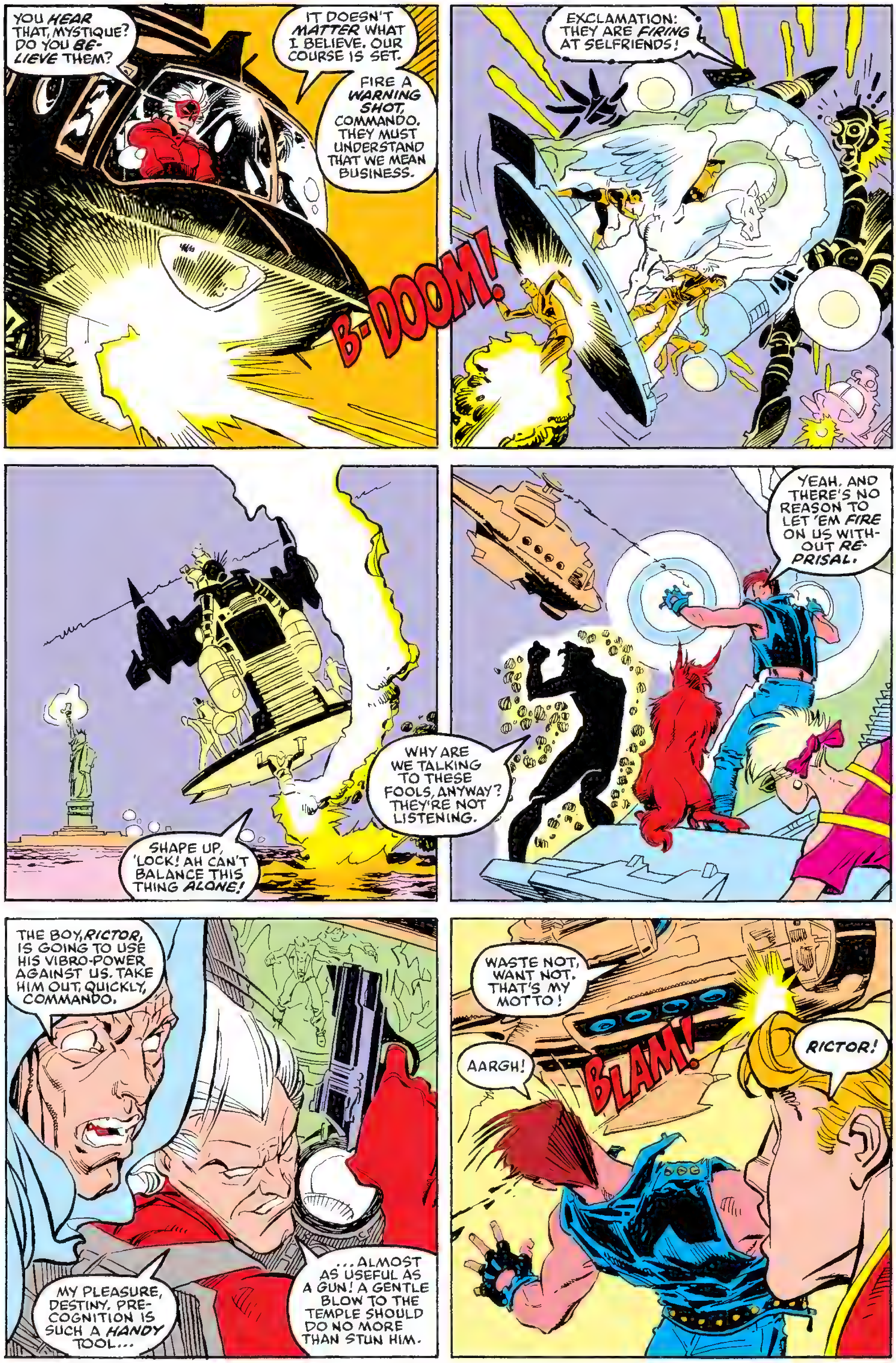

YES, SELFRIENDSAM. SELF HAS SEEN ON TV WHO IS STRONGEST.
DO SELFRIENDS POSSESS A CAN OF COSMIC *SPINACH?*
THAT'S A PRETTY *MASSIVE* MACHINE, WARLOCK. GIVEN THE ICE AND THE INERTIA, IT'S NO WONDER YOU CAN'T BUDGE IT.
SKIDS, USING MY *SUNSPOT* STRENGTH I CAN LIFT THIS THING... JUST BARELY...
BUT IT'S ENOUGH, BOBBY. I'LL SLIDE MY *DEFLECTOR FIELD* BENEATH IT...
HEY, 'LOCK, HOW ABOUT A NEW APPROACH? WE NEED SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE PRACTICAL...
LIKE A *FORKLIFT*, FRIEND*SKIDS*?
YOU *DID* IT, 'LOCK!
WE DID IT, SELFRIENDS-- TOGETHER!

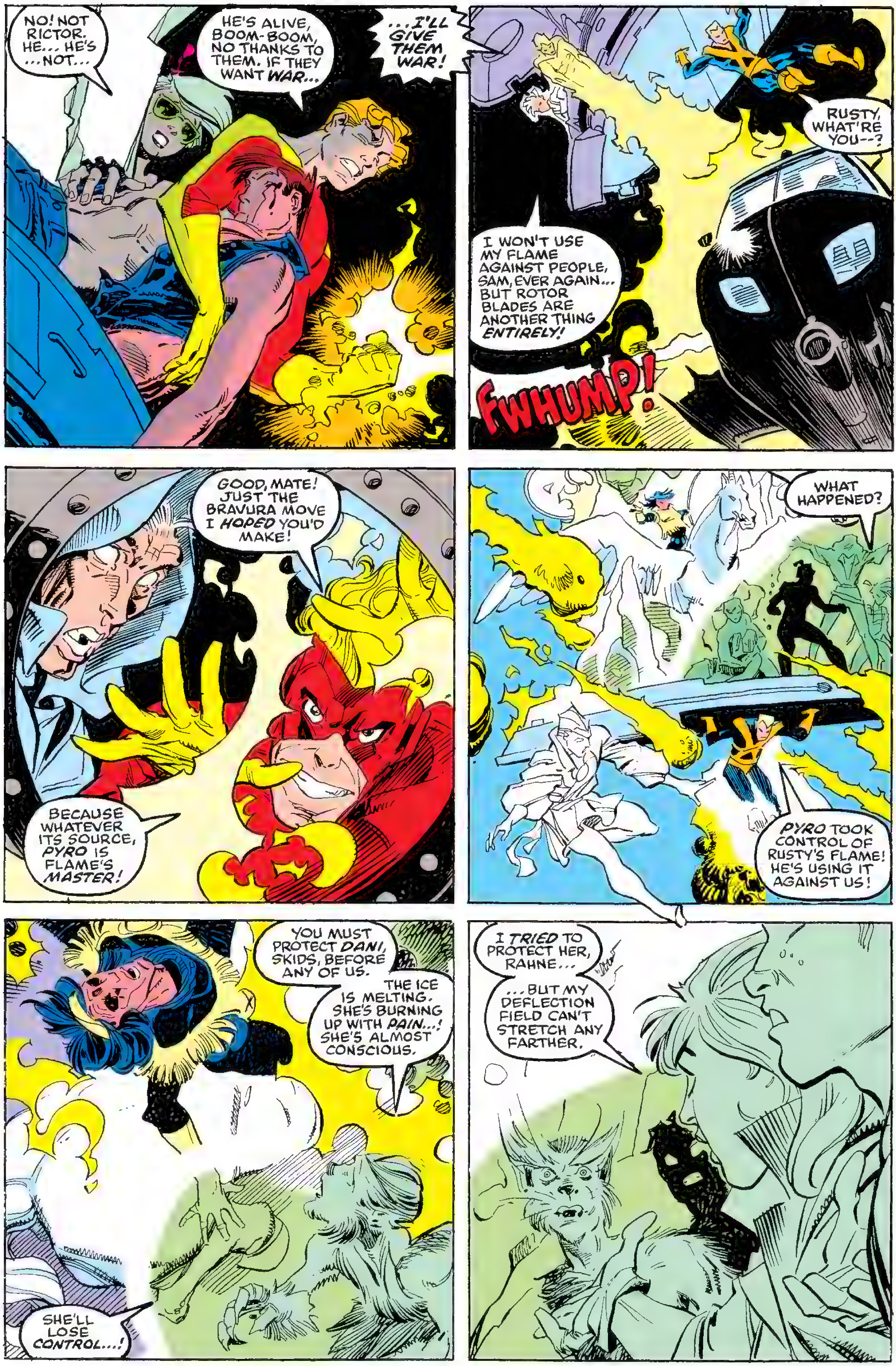

BUT SELFRIENDS, *ICEMAKER* IS *HEAVY*. SELF CANNOT HOLD IT FOR LONG.
DON'T WORRY, 'LOCK, I'LL HELP. WHAT NOW?
NOW WE HEAD FOR *SHIP!*
YO! ALL ABOARD!
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST, IN THIS INSTANCE, IF SELF BECAME A *TRANSFORMER-ROCKET?*
BE WHATEVER YOU LIKE, WARLOCK. JUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT WHATEVER IT IS HAS LOTS OF *LIFT*...
...'CAUSE OLE SAM'S GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET!
AWRIIGHT, 'LOCK, IT'S YOU AN' ME!
FIRE ALL *ROCKETS!* LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
VAROOOM!
I CANNOT HELP BUT ADMIRE THEIR INITIATIVE! AND I'M UNCOMFORTABLE *SPYING* ON THEM.
BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, SECRECY IS NECESSARY.
ASGARD HAS DRIFTED INTO A DIMENSION THAT RENDERS CONTACT ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE AND YET SOMEONE THERE HAS LAUNCHED THIS ATTACK!
AND ONLY WHEN I KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, WILL I BEGIN TO KNOW HOW TO *COMBAT* IT.

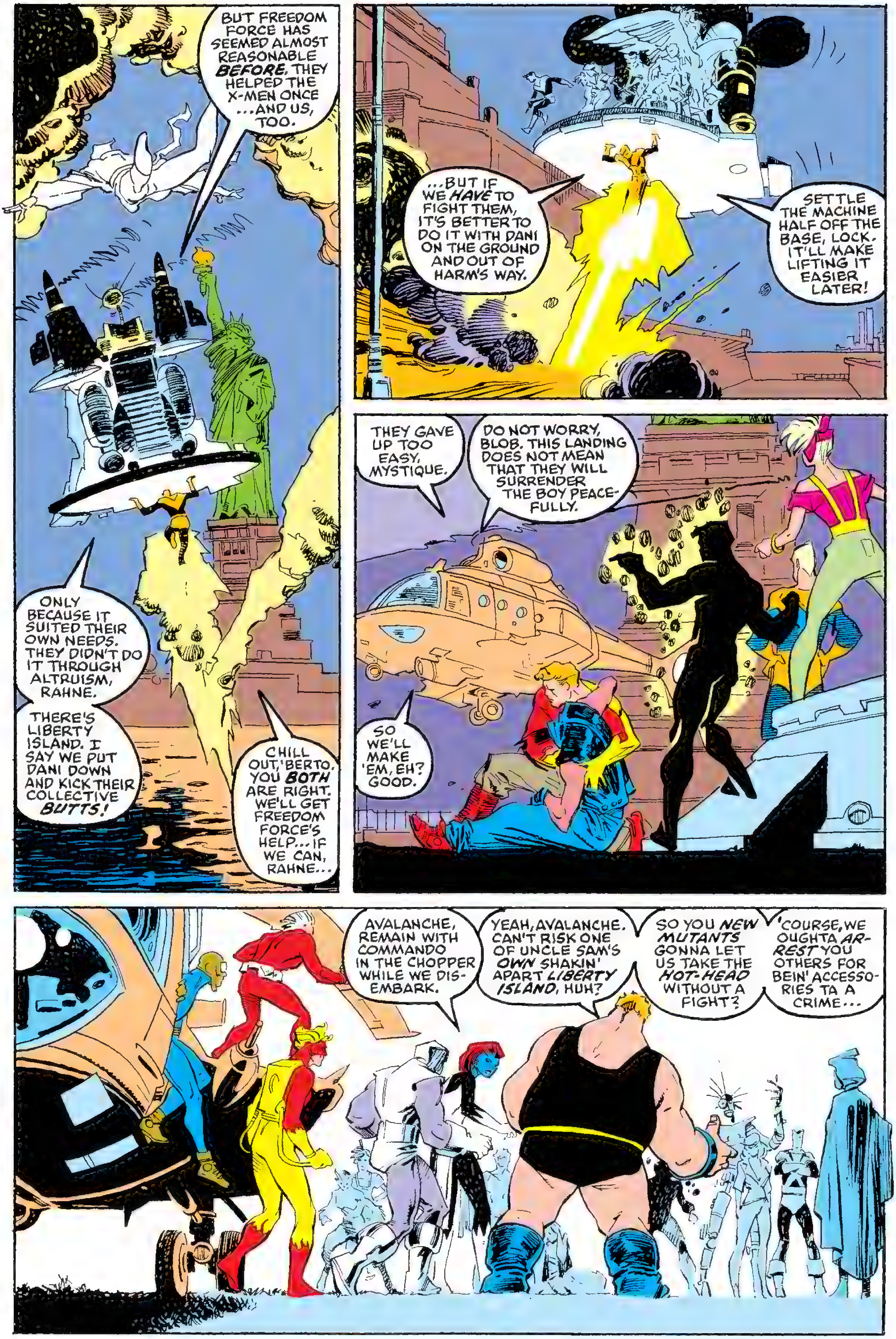

WHILE IN THE ASGARDIAN DIMENSION OF THE DEAD, THE DEATH GODDESS, HELA, CRACKLES WITH FURY...
THE MORTAL WAS RESOURCEFUL AND BRAVE, I'LL GIVE HER THAT. BY USE OF HER MUTANT POWER, SHE HATH THWARTED MY PLAN FOR HER...
...THOUGH THE ASGARDIAN VALKYRIES HAVE FINALLY CEASED TO RESIST MY MAGIC.
ALL ARE NOW ABED WITH RAGING FEVERS, AND SEVERAL HAVE MANIFESTED THE FLAME...
...TOO ILL... OR MAD... TO BE ABOUT THEIR APPOINTED TASK BRINGING WARRIOR-SOULS TO SWELL LORD ODIN'S ARMY.
WHEN THE SEEDS OF MY REVENGE WERE SOWN, I BELIEVED LORD ODIN LOST FOREVER.
NOW HE IS RETURNED, BUT THE COSMIC FLUX FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE* INTERFERES WITH THE FULL SIGHT OF ALL-SEEING ODIN.
HE KNOWS... HE MUST KNOW OF THE VALKYRIES' ILLNESSES, AND YET... THE FATES, THEMSELVES, DOTH CONSPIRE TO HIDE MY HAND IN THE CONSPIRACY.
IT IS MEANT THAT I SUCCEED.
*ASGARD ENTERED THE NEGATIVE ZONE IN THOR #404.--ALL-SEEING BOB
NEVER FEAR, YOUNG HUMAN VALKYRIE. YOU AND YOUR ASGARDIAN SISTERS WILL YET COME TO SERVE ME.
THOU SHALL SET MIDGARD* ABLAZE AND BRING ME WARRIORS' SOULS TO SWELL MY ARMY OF THE DEAD.
THEN SHALL ASGARD TREMBLE AT MY MIGHT, AND I WILL HAVE REVENGE UPON THOR ODINSON!
MY NEXT MOVE IS MOST CLEAR. MORTALS ARE E'ER EAGER TO COMPLAIN TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY WHEN THEIR LIFE OF UTTER COMPLACENCY IS SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED...
* EARTH.

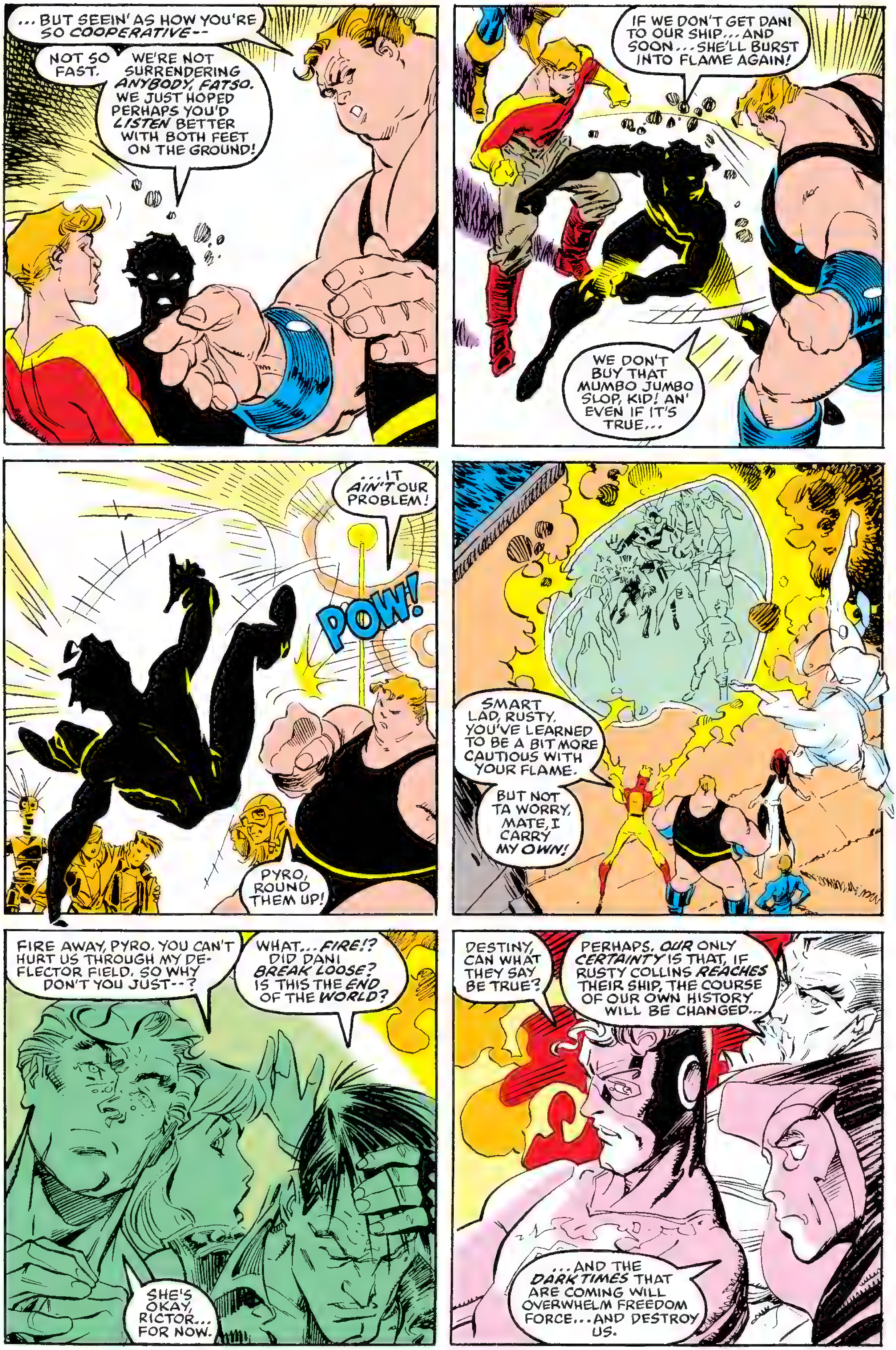

"...I MUST SIMPLY INSURE THAT THE PROPER *PRESSURE* BE APPLIED WITH THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF *FORCE*..."
DOES IT SEEM UNUSUAL, MYSTIQUE, THAT *FREEDOM FORCE* IS GETTING SO MUCH BUSINESS THESE DAYS?
ALL DEPARTMENTS ARE INSTRUCTED TO FORWARD ALL *MUTANT RELATED* MATTERS TO US, COMMANDO.
THAT HEFTY BONUS WE RECEIVED IS *PROOF* OF YOUR PRESIDENT'S TRUST.
NICE TO BE APPRECIATED. WE'VE BEEN BUSTING OUR TAILS BEING UNCLE SAM'S TAME *MUTANTS!*
TOO BAD THE COLLINS KID WOULDN'T *JOIN* US WHEN WE MADE HIM THE OFFER. THIS MOST RECENT INCIDENT COULD MEAN BIG *TROUBLE.*
INCIDENT? THAT SNOTTY UPSTART *FIRE-STARTER* TRIED TA TORCH *MANHATTAN* OR I AIN'T *THE BLOB!*
WOULDN'T *REGISTER,* LIKE A GOOD MUTANT CITIZEN.* WE SHOULDA *KEPT* HIM IN JAIL!
THE DECISION TO RELEASE HIM WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, MATE, AND MADE FAR ABOVE *OUR* LEVEL.
*X-FACTOR #33 —BOB
WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVATION, PYRO, IT HAS PROVIDED OUR *OPPORTUNITY.*
IN MY PRECOGNITIVE VISIONS, THE THREADS OF THE FUTURE ARE TANGLED AND CONFUSED...
...BUT ARRESTING COLLINS *APPEARS* TO LEAD TO SURVIVAL FOR OURSELVES AND SOME OF OUR KIND.
THERE! OUR MINI-CEREBRO HAS PICKED OUT *RUSTY COLLINS* AND THE *NEW MUTANTS* ...WITH A HUGE CHUNK OF...DESTINY, WHAT *IS* IT?
I CANNOT SAY.
SOMETHING... PERHAPS A *DIMENSIONAL WARP* OUT OF ALL PROBABILITY, HIDES IT FROM MY SIGHT.

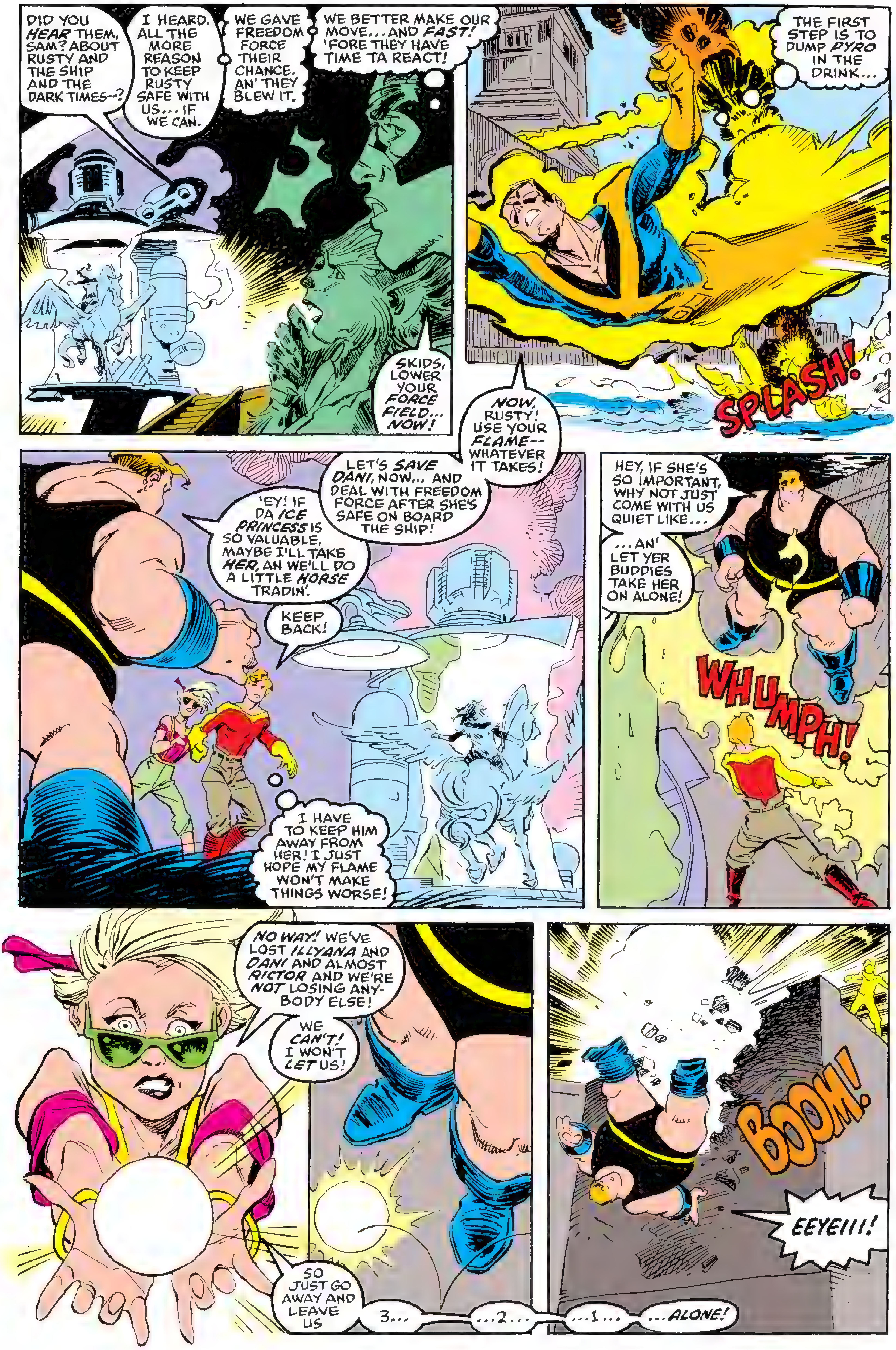

"I KNOW ONLY THAT WE MUST TAKE THE COLLINS BOY."
"AND THE *OTHERS*, DESTINY?"
"FOR US, THEY ARE *IRRELEVANT*."
DO SELF'S *ROTOR BLADES* PROVIDE LIFT AND BALANCE, FRIENDCANNONBALL?
NOT ENOUGH, 'LOCK.
AH DIDN'T FIGURE THAT *ICE* WOULD BE THIS *HEAVY!*
FOOM!
FOOM!
THIS IS *FREEDOM FORCE*. WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF *RUSTY COLLINS* FOR RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK.
WHUP whup WHUP whup
NOT NOW... OF *ALL* TIMES!
WHAT *FOR?*
HE HASN'T *DONE* ANYTHING!
YO, COLLINS. THIS IS YER OLD PAL, THE *BLOB!* YOU BROKE FURLOUGH AN' WE'RE TAKIN' YA *IN!*
THIS IS LOSING US TIME, GUYS...
...WHEN WE SHOULD BE THINKING OF DANI. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SURRENDER.
NO, WE'LL KEEP GOING AND TRY *TALKING* TO THEM FOR A CHANGE.
RUSTY DIDN'T *DO* IT. WE'RE ALL *WITNESSES*. IT WAS *MIRAGE!* SHE HAD SOME KIND OF WEIRD ATTACK. THAT'S WHY SHE'S TRAPPED IN THE ICE.
WE'RE TRYING TO GET HER TO OUR *SHIP*. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO *HELP*...?
I DARE NOT ASSIST THEM. THERE ARE *MYSTIC FORCES* AT PLAY HERE THAT I DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND...

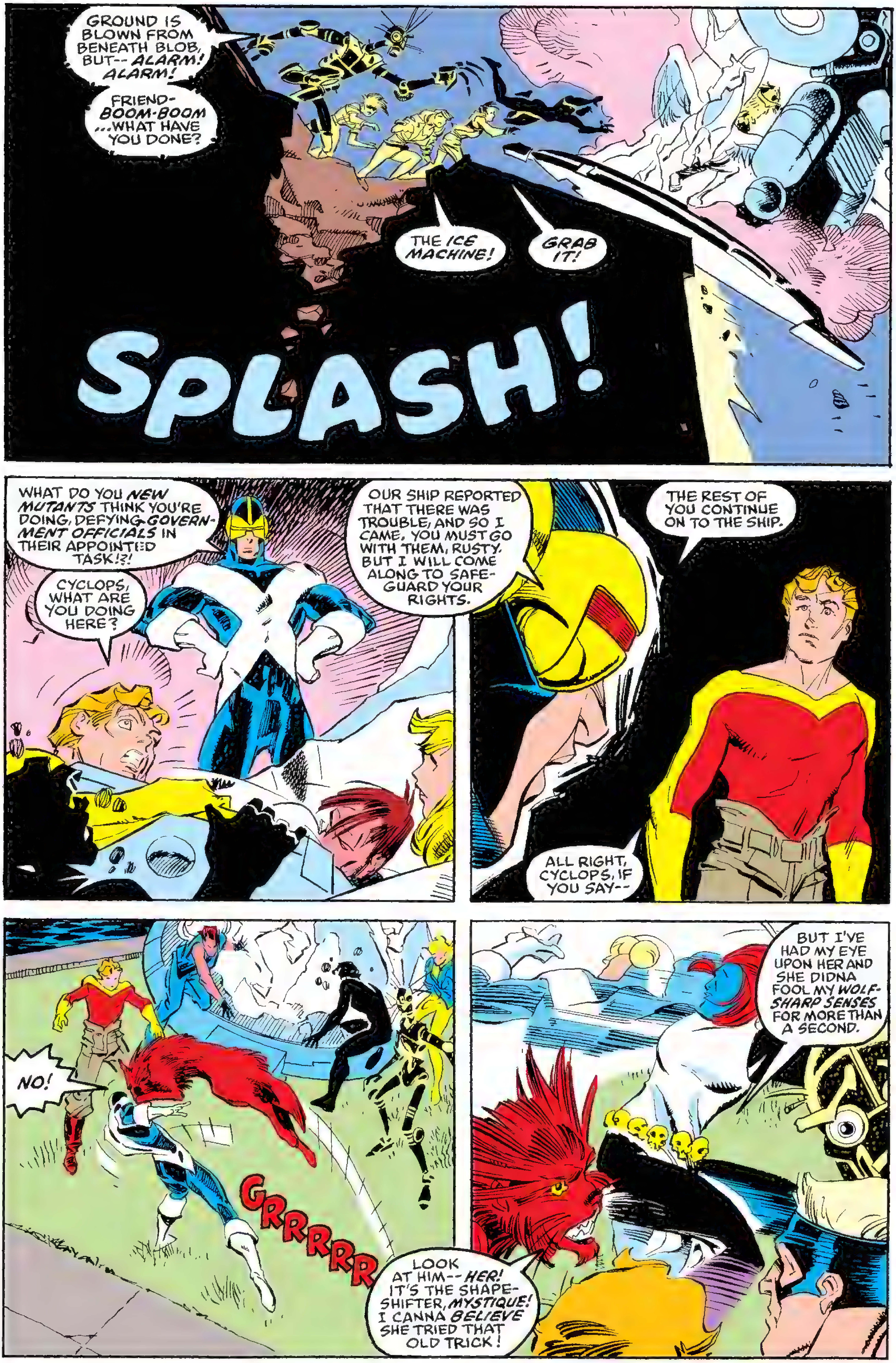

YOU *HEAR* THAT, MYSTIQUE? DO YOU *BELIEVE* THEM?
IT DOESN'T *MATTER* WHAT I BELIEVE. OUR COURSE IS SET.
FIRE A *WARNING SHOT,* COMMANDO. THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS.
B-DOOM!
EXCLAMATION: THEY ARE *FIRING* AT SELFRIENDS!
WHY ARE WE TALKING TO THESE FOOLS, ANYWAY? THEY'RE NOT LISTENING.
SHAPE UP, 'LOCK! AH CAN'T BALANCE THIS THING *ALONE!*
YEAH, AND THERE'S NO REASON TO LET 'EM *FIRE* ON US WITHOUT *REPRISAL.*
THE BOY, *RICTOR,* IS GOING TO USE HIS VIBRO-POWER AGAINST US. TAKE HIM OUT, QUICKLY, COMMANDO.
MY PLEASURE, DESTINY. PRECOGNITION IS SUCH A *HANDY* TOOL...
...ALMOST AS USEFUL AS A GUN! A GENTLE BLOW TO THE TEMPLE SHOULD DO NO MORE THAN STUN HIM.
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT. THAT'S MY MOTTO!
AARGH!
BLAM!
RICTOR!


NO! NOT RICTOR. HE... HE'S ...NOT...
HE'S ALIVE, BOOM-BOOM, NO THANKS TO THEM. IF THEY WANT *WAR*...
...*I'LL GIVE THEM WAR!*
RUSTY, WHAT'RE YOU--?
I WON'T USE MY FLAME AGAINST PEOPLE, SAM, EVER AGAIN... BUT ROTOR BLADES ARE ANOTHER THING *ENTIRELY!*
FWHUMP!
GOOD, MATE! JUST THE BRAVURA MOVE I *HOPED* YOU'D MAKE!
BECAUSE WHATEVER ITS SOURCE, *PYRO* IS FLAME'S *MASTER!*
WHAT HAPPENED?
PYRO TOOK CONTROL OF RUSTY'S FLAME! HE'S USING IT AGAINST US!
YOU MUST PROTECT *DANI*, SKIDS, BEFORE ANY OF US.
THE ICE IS MELTING. SHE'S BURNING UP WITH *PAIN*...! SHE'S ALMOST CONSCIOUS.
SHE'LL LOSE *CONTROL*...!
I *TRIED* TO PROTECT HER, RAHNE...
...BUT MY DEFLECTION FIELD CAN'T STRETCH ANY FARTHER.

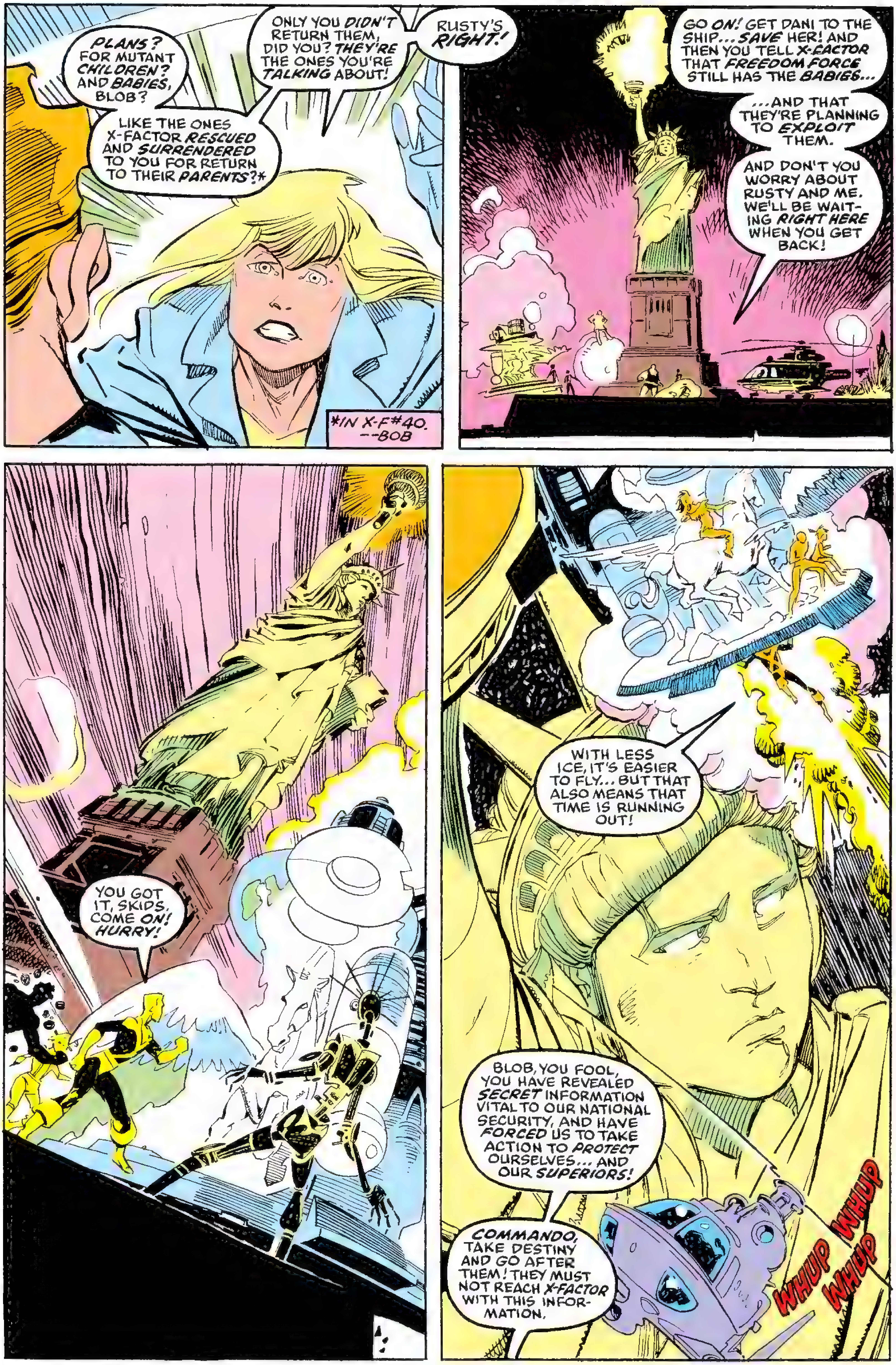

BUT FREEDOM FORCE HAS SEEMED ALMOST REASONABLE *BEFORE*. THEY HELPED THE X-MEN ONCE ...AND US, TOO.
ONLY BECAUSE IT SUITED THEIR OWN NEEDS. THEY DIDN'T DO IT THROUGH ALTRUISM, RAHNE.
THERE'S LIBERTY ISLAND. I SAY WE PUT DANI DOWN AND KICK THEIR COLLECTIVE *BUTTS*!
CHILL OUT, 'BERTO. YOU *BOTH* ARE RIGHT. WE'LL GET FREEDOM FORCE'S HELP... IF WE CAN, RAHNE...
...BUT IF WE *HAVE* TO FIGHT THEM, IT'S BETTER TO DO IT WITH DANI ON THE GROUND AND OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
SETTLE THE MACHINE HALF OFF THE BASE, LOCK. IT'LL MAKE LIFTING IT EASIER LATER!
THEY GAVE UP TOO EASY, MYSTIQUE.
DO NOT WORRY, BLOB. THIS LANDING DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WILL SURRENDER THE BOY PEACEFULLY.
SO WE'LL MAKE 'EM, EH? GOOD.
AVALANCHE, REMAIN WITH COMMANDO IN THE CHOPPER WHILE WE DISEMBARK.
YEAH, AVALANCHE. CAN'T RISK ONE OF UNCLE SAM'S *OWN* SHAKIN' APART *LIBERTY ISLAND*, HUH?
SO YOU *NEW MUTANTS* GONNA LET US TAKE THE *HOT-HEAD* WITHOUT A FIGHT?
'COURSE, WE OUGHTA *ARREST* YOU OTHERS FOR BEIN' ACCESSORIES TA A CRIME...

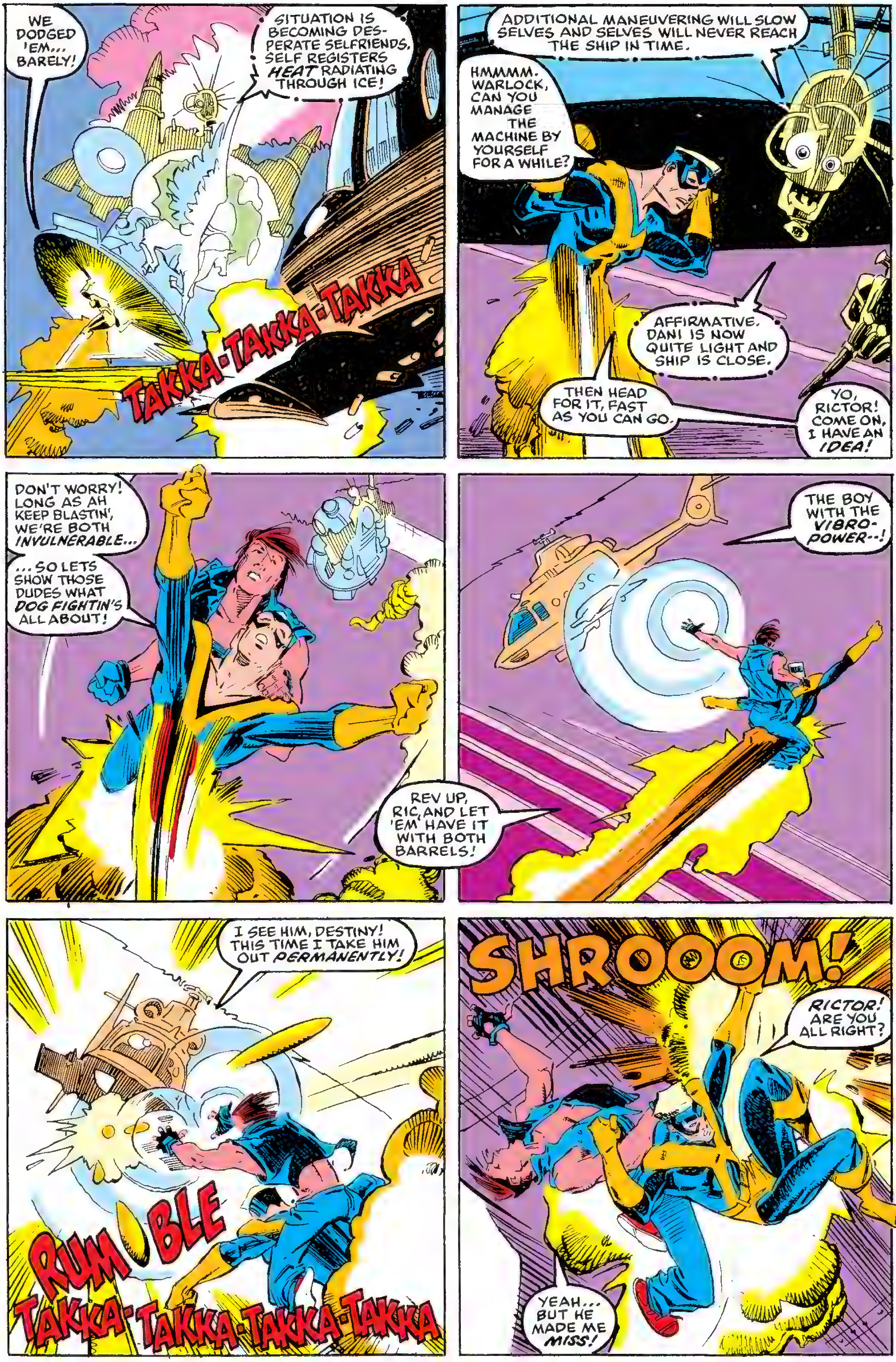

...BUT SEEIN' AS HOW YOU'RE SO *COOPERATIVE*--
NOT SO FAST.
WE'RE NOT SURRENDERING *ANYBODY, FATSO.* WE JUST HOPED PERHAPS YOU'D *LISTEN* BETTER WITH BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND!
IF WE DON'T GET DANI TO OUR SHIP... AND SOON... SHE'LL BURST INTO FLAME AGAIN!
WE DON'T BUY THAT MUMBO JUMBO SLOP, KID! AN' EVEN IF IT'S TRUE...
...IT *AIN'T* OUR PROBLEM!
POW!
PYRO, ROUND THEM UP!
SMART LAD, RUSTY. YOU'VE LEARNED TO BE A BIT MORE CAUTIOUS WITH YOUR FLAME.
BUT NOT TA WORRY, MATE, I CARRY MY *OWN!*
FIRE AWAY, PYRO. YOU CAN'T HURT US THROUGH MY DEFLECTOR FIELD. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST--?
WHAT... *FIRE!?* DID DANI *BREAK LOOSE?* IS THIS THE *END* OF THE *WORLD?*
SHE'S OKAY, RICTOR... FOR NOW.
DESTINY, CAN WHAT THEY SAY BE TRUE?
PERHAPS. *OUR* ONLY *CERTAINTY* IS THAT, IF RUSTY COLLINS *REACHES* THEIR SHIP, THE COURSE OF OUR OWN HISTORY WILL BE CHANGED...
...AND THE *DARK TIMES* THAT ARE COMING WILL OVERWHELM FREEDOM FORCE... AND DESTROY US.

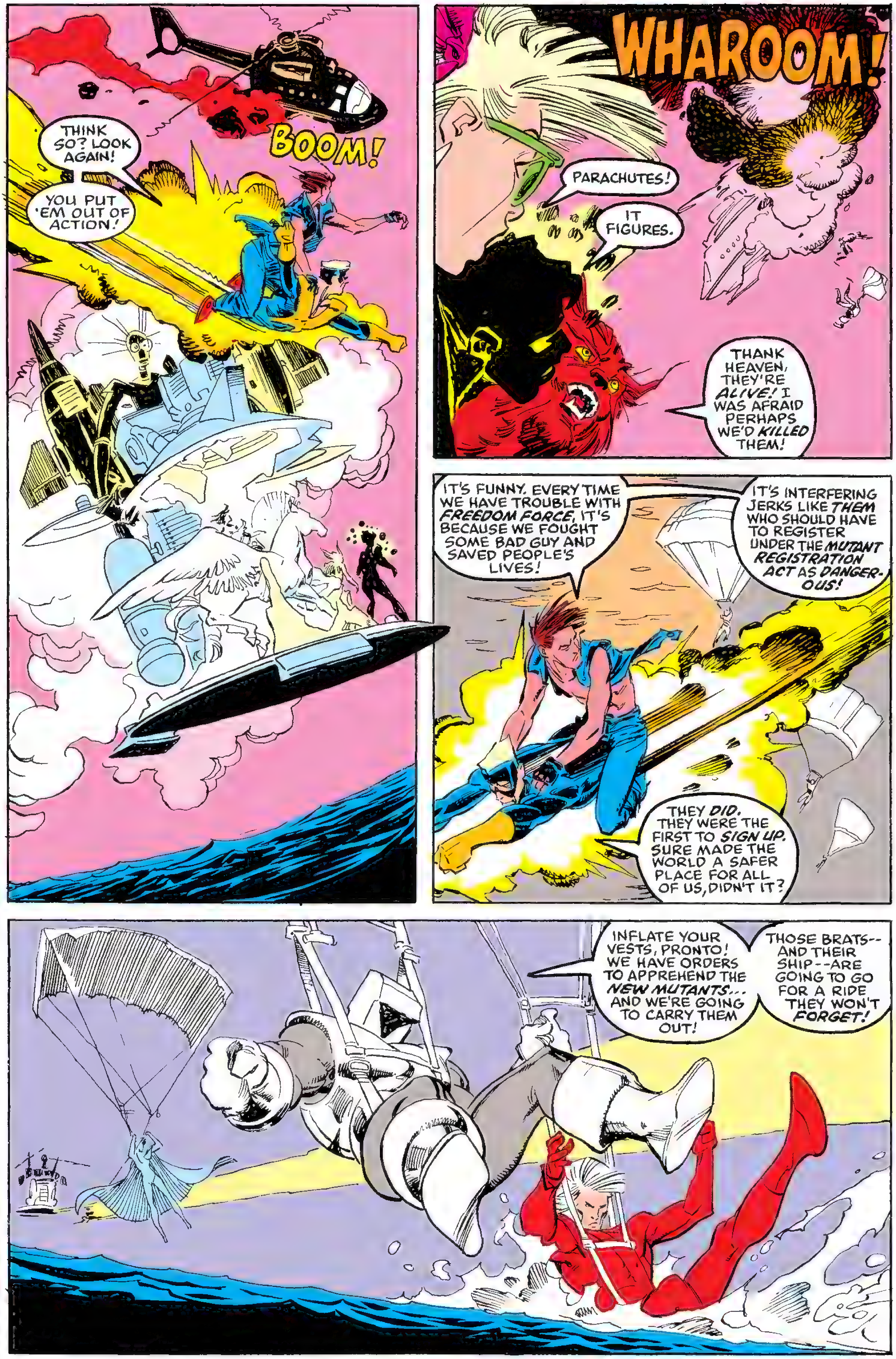

DID YOU *HEAR* THEM, SAM? ABOUT RUSTY AND THE SHIP AND THE DARK TIMES--?
I HEARD. ALL THE MORE REASON TO KEEP RUSTY SAFE WITH US... IF WE CAN.
WE GAVE FREEDOM FORCE THEIR CHANCE, AN' THEY BLEW IT.
WE BETTER MAKE OUR MOVE... AND *FAST!* 'FORE THEY HAVE TIME TA REACT!
SKIDS, LOWER YOUR *FORCE FIELD... NOW!*
THE FIRST STEP IS TO DUMP *PYRO* IN THE DRINK...
SPLASH!
NOW, RUSTY! USE YOUR *FLAME--* WHATEVER IT TAKES!
LET'S *SAVE DANI,* NOW... AND DEAL WITH FREEDOM FORCE AFTER SHE'S SAFE ON BOARD THE SHIP!
'EY! IF DA *ICE PRINCESS* IS SO VALUABLE, MAYBE I'LL TAKE *HER,* AN WE'LL DO A LITTLE *HORSE* TRADIN'.
KEEP BACK!
I HAVE TO KEEP HIM AWAY FROM HER! I JUST HOPE MY FLAME WON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE!
HEY, IF SHE'S SO IMPORTANT, WHY NOT JUST COME WITH US QUIET LIKE...
...AN' LET YER BUDDIES TAKE HER ON ALONE!
WHUMPH!
NO WAY! WE'VE LOST *ILLYANA* AND *DANI* AND ALMOST *RICTOR* AND WE'RE *NOT* LOSING ANY-BODY ELSE!
WE *CAN'T!* I WON'T *LET* US!
SO JUST GO AWAY AND LEAVE US
3...
...2...
...1...
...*ALONE!*
BOOM!
EEYEIII!

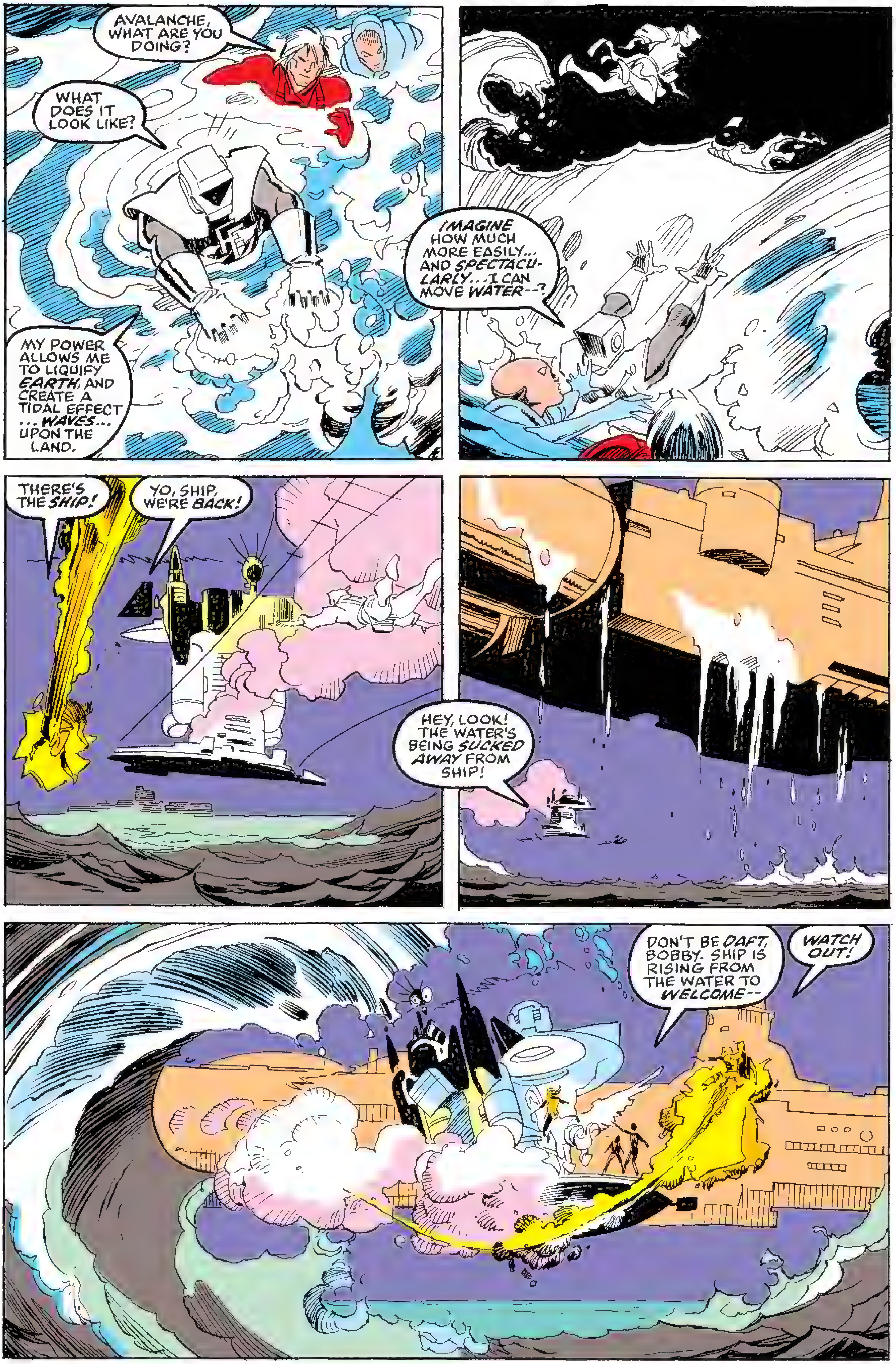

GROUND IS BLOWN FROM BENEATH BLOB, BUT-- *ALARM! ALARM!*
FRIEND-*BOOM-BOOM* ...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THE *ICE MACHINE!*
GRAB IT!
SPLASH!
WHAT DO YOU *NEW MUTANTS* THINK YOU'RE DOING, DEFYING *GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS* IN THEIR APPOINTED TASK!?!
CYCLOPS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OUR SHIP REPORTED THAT THERE WAS TROUBLE, AND SO I CAME. YOU MUST GO WITH THEM, RUSTY. BUT I WILL COME ALONG TO SAFEGUARD YOUR RIGHTS.
THE REST OF YOU CONTINUE ON TO THE SHIP.
ALL RIGHT, CYCLOPS, IF YOU SAY--
NO!
GRRRRR
LOOK AT HIM-- *HER!* IT'S THE SHAPESHIFTER, *MYSTIQUE!* I CANNA *BELIEVE* SHE TRIED THAT OLD TRICK!
BUT I'VE HAD MY EYE UPON HER AND SHE DIDNA FOOL MY *WOLF-SHARP SENSES* FOR MORE THAN A SECOND.

AND A FINE DISTRACTION THE LADY *PROVED!*
ALARM! RUSTY! SELF SENSES APPROACH OF LIFEFORM AT MACH-SPEED.
TOO LATE, BUNKY. *SILVER SABRE* HAS DONE THE DEED BEFORE THE WARNING CAN BE UTTERED!
POW!
AND A LOT OF GOOD IT DID YOU, TOO! TRY GETTING AT RUSTY... JUST *TRY!*
LOOK, THIS IS *STUPID!* LET THEM *HAVE* ME, FOR PETE'S SAKE.
IT DOESN'T *MATTER* IF IT ISN'T FAIR! IS IT FAIR TO LET DANI *FRY*, JUST TO PROTECT ME?
THE KID JUST HAD A RARE ATTACK OF GOOD SENSE, GIRLIE! SO WHY NOT LISTEN TA HIM, AN' LET'S US MAKE A LITTLE DEAL, HUH?
HE COMES WITH US, QUIET AN' GOOD LIKE, WHY... THERE AIN'T NEVER GONNA *BE* A *REAL* TRIAL ANYWAY!
BLOB... DON'T...
JUST A LITTLE PONY SHOW... A CIRCUS TA APPEASE THE MASSES... YA KNOW? AN' THEN... WHY RUSTY GETS OFFERED A CUSHY *CIVIL SERVICE* JOB...
...LIKE *US.* GOOD *SALARY.* GREAT *BENEFITS.*
THERE ARE MUTANT *BABIES*, SEE? AN' EVEN *KIDS* WHO'LL NEED TRAININ'.
THERE'S *PEOPLE* IN THE GOVERNMENT GOT BIG *PLANS* FOR 'EM...

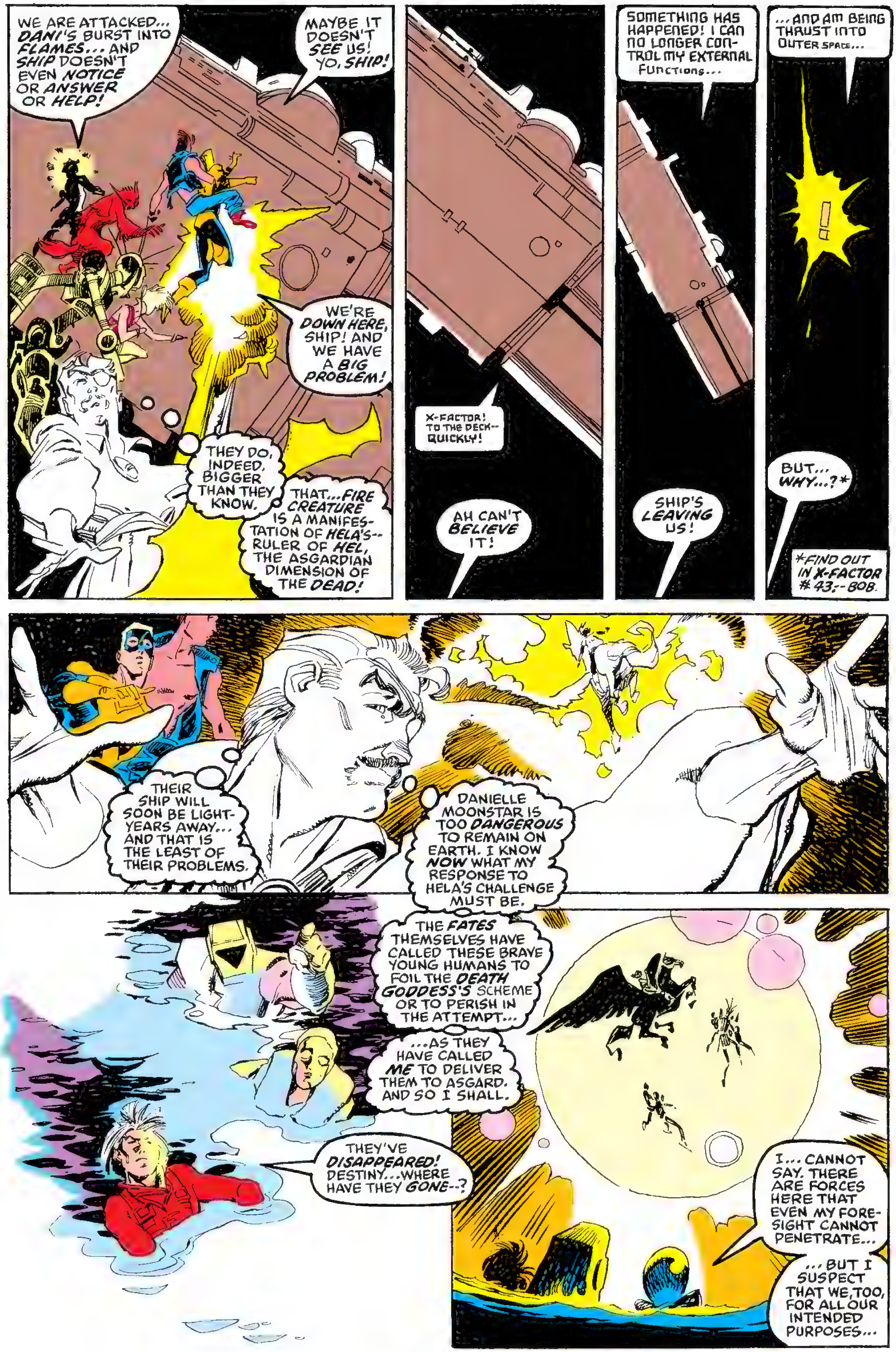

PLANS? FOR MUTANT CHILDREN? AND BABIES, BLOB?
LIKE THE ONES X-FACTOR RESCUED AND SURRENDERED TO YOU FOR RETURN TO THEIR PARENTS?*
ONLY YOU DIDN'T RETURN THEM, DID YOU? THEY'RE THE ONES YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
RUSTY'S RIGHT!
*IN X-F#40. --BOB
GO ON! GET DANI TO THE SHIP... SAVE HER! AND THEN YOU TELL X-FACTOR THAT FREEDOM FORCE STILL HAS THE BABIES...
...AND THAT THEY'RE PLANNING TO EXPLOIT THEM.
AND DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT RUSTY AND ME. WE'LL BE WAITING RIGHT HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK!
YOU GOT IT, SKIDS. COME ON! HURRY!
WITH LESS ICE, IT'S EASIER TO FLY... BUT THAT ALSO MEANS THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
BLOB, YOU FOOL, YOU HAVE REVEALED SECRET INFORMATION VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, AND HAVE FORCED US TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT OURSELVES... AND OUR SUPERIORS!
COMMANDO, TAKE DESTINY AND GO AFTER THEM! THEY MUST NOT REACH X-FACTOR WITH THIS INFORMATION.
WHUP WHUP WHUP

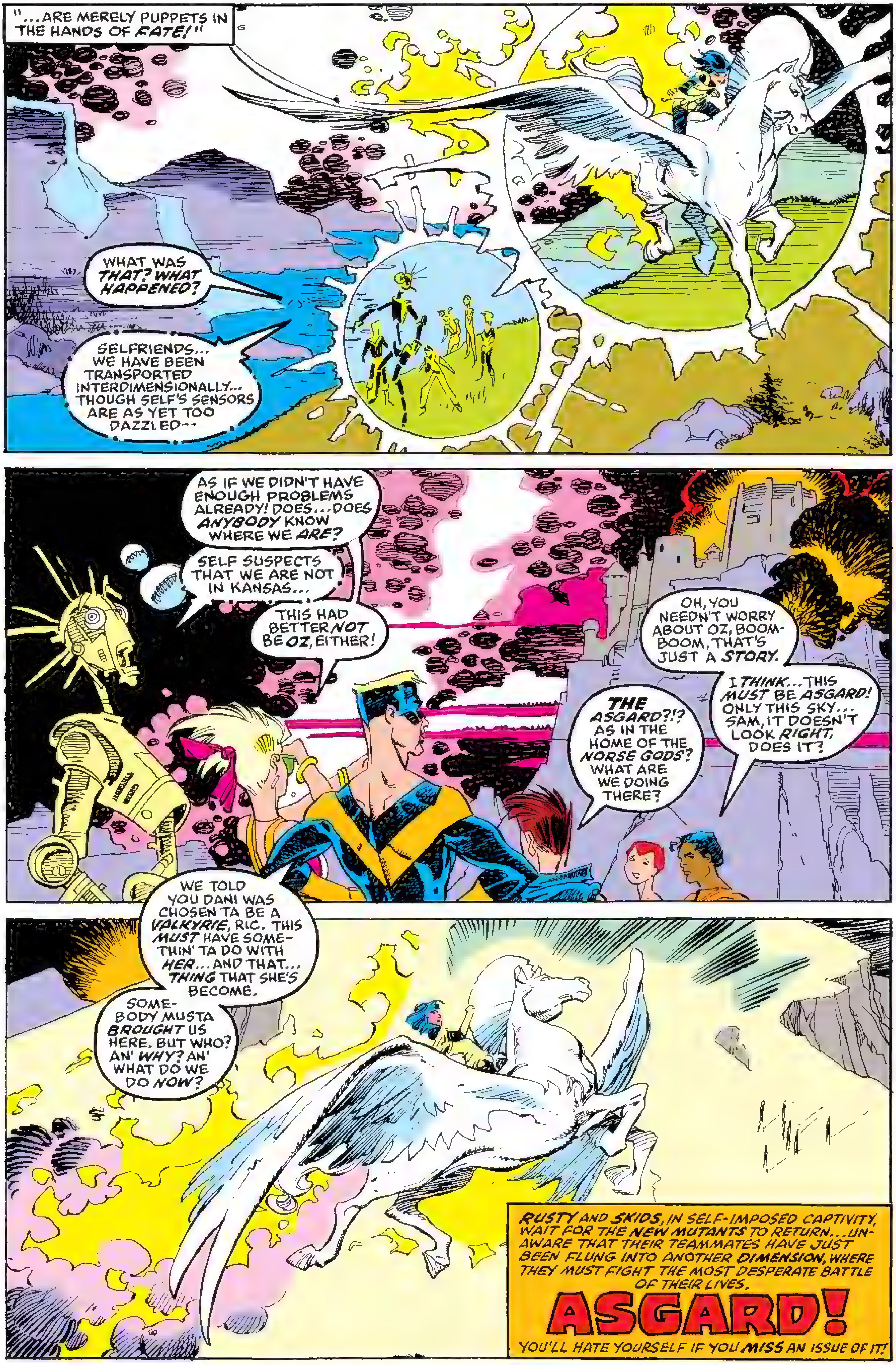

WE DODGED 'EM... BARELY!
SITUATION IS BECOMING DESPERATE SELFRIENDS, SELF REGISTERS *HEAT* RADIATING THROUGH ICE!
TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKKA
ADDITIONAL MANEUVERING WILL SLOW SELVES AND SELVES WILL NEVER REACH THE SHIP IN TIME.
HMMMM. WARLOCK, CAN YOU MANAGE THE MACHINE BY YOURSELF FOR A WHILE?
AFFIRMATIVE. DANI IS NOW QUITE LIGHT AND SHIP IS CLOSE.
THEN HEAD FOR IT, FAST AS YOU CAN GO.
YO, RICTOR! COME ON, I HAVE AN *IDEA!*
DON'T WORRY! LONG AS AH KEEP BLASTIN', WE'RE BOTH *INVULNERABLE...*
...SO LETS SHOW THOSE DUDES WHAT *DOG FIGHTIN'S* ALL ABOUT!
THE BOY WITH THE *VIBRO-POWER*--!
REV UP, RIC, AND LET 'EM HAVE IT WITH BOTH BARRELS!
I SEE HIM, DESTINY! THIS TIME I TAKE HIM OUT *PERMANENTLY!*
RUMBLE
TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKKA-TAKKA
SHROOOOM!
RICTOR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH... BUT HE MADE ME *MISS!*


THINK SO? LOOK AGAIN!
YOU PUT 'EM OUT OF ACTION!
BOOM!
WHAROOM!
PARACHUTES!
IT FIGURES.
THANK HEAVEN, THEY'RE *ALIVE!* I WAS AFRAID PERHAPS WE'D *KILLED* THEM!
IT'S FUNNY. EVERY TIME WE HAVE TROUBLE WITH *FREEDOM FORCE*, IT'S BECAUSE WE FOUGHT SOME BAD GUY AND SAVED PEOPLE'S LIVES!
IT'S INTERFERING JERKS LIKE *THEM* WHO SHOULD HAVE TO REGISTER UNDER THE *MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT* AS *DANGEROUS!*
THEY *DID.* THEY WERE THE FIRST TO *SIGN UP.* SURE MADE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE FOR ALL OF US, DIDN'T IT?
INFLATE YOUR VESTS, PRONTO! WE HAVE ORDERS TO APPREHEND THE *NEW MUTANTS*... AND WE'RE GOING TO CARRY THEM OUT!
THOSE BRATS--AND THEIR SHIP--ARE GOING TO GO FOR A RIDE THEY WON'T *FORGET!*


AVALANCHE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
MY POWER ALLOWS ME TO LIQUIFY *EARTH*, AND CREATE A TIDAL EFFECT ...*WAVES*... UPON THE LAND.
IMAGINE HOW MUCH MORE EASILY... AND *SPECTACULARLY*... I CAN MOVE *WATER*--?
THERE'S THE *SHIP!*
YO, SHIP, WE'RE *BACK!*
HEY, LOOK! THE WATER'S BEING *SUCKED AWAY* FROM SHIP!
DON'T BE *DAFT*, BOBBY. SHIP IS RISING FROM THE WATER TO *WELCOME*--
WATCH OUT!

SPLOOSH!
TIDAL WAVE!
SENSORS INDICATE THAT SALT WATER HAS RAISED TEMPERATURE OF REMAINING *ICE* AS WELL AS DESTROYED EFFICACY OF MACHINE...
OH... NO...
DANI!
THERE, IN THE SKY... *BEHIND* HER, IN THE SMOKE AND MIST! IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A... A *FACE!*
FOOLS! AS IF YOUR PALTRY *ICE*... OR MUTANT *MAGICKS*... COULD CONTAIN ME!
YOU WILL PAY. ONE BY ONE, YOU *POWERFUL* OF EARTH WILL *FACE ME* AND WILL *FALL...*
...AND I WILL SEND YOU... ONE BY ONE... TO JOIN *DEATH'S ARMY!*


WE ARE ATTACKED... DANI'S BURST INTO FLAMES... AND SHIP DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE OR ANSWER OR HELP!
MAYBE IT DOESN'T SEE US! YO, SHIP!
WE'RE DOWN HERE, SHIP! AND WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM!
THEY DO, INDEED, BIGGER THAN THEY KNOW.
THAT...FIRE CREATURE IS A MANIFESTATION OF HELA'S--RULER OF HEL, THE ASGARDIAN DIMENSION OF THE DEAD!
X-FACTOR! TO THE DECK--QUICKLY!
AH CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED! I CAN NO LONGER CONTROL MY EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS...
SHIP'S LEAVING US!
...AND AM BEING THRUST INTO OUTER SPACE...
!
BUT... WHY...?*
*FIND OUT IN X-FACTOR #43.--BOB.
THEIR SHIP WILL SOON BE LIGHT-YEARS AWAY... AND THAT IS THE LEAST OF THEIR PROBLEMS.
DANIELLE MOONSTAR IS TOO DANGEROUS TO REMAIN ON EARTH. I KNOW NOW WHAT MY RESPONSE TO HELA'S CHALLENGE MUST BE.
THE FATES THEMSELVES HAVE CALLED THESE BRAVE YOUNG HUMANS TO FOIL THE DEATH GODDESS'S SCHEME OR TO PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT...
...AS THEY HAVE CALLED ME TO DELIVER THEM TO ASGARD. AND SO I SHALL.
THEY'VE DISAPPEARED! DESTINY...WHERE HAVE THEY GONE--?
I... CANNOT SAY. THERE ARE FORCES HERE THAT EVEN MY FORESIGHT CANNOT PENETRATE...
...BUT I SUSPECT THAT WE, TOO, FOR ALL OUR INTENDED PURPOSES...


"...ARE MERELY PUPPETS IN THE HANDS OF *FATE!*"
WHAT WAS *THAT? WHAT HAPPENED?*
SELFRIENDS... WE HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED INTERDIMENSIONALLY... THOUGH SELF'S SENSORS ARE AS YET TOO DAZZLED--
AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY! DOES... DOES *ANYBODY* KNOW WHERE WE *ARE?*
SELF SUSPECTS THAT WE ARE NOT IN KANSAS...
THIS HAD BETTER *NOT* BE *OZ*, EITHER!
OH, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT OZ, BOOM-BOOM, THAT'S JUST A *STORY.*
I *THINK*... THIS *MUST* BE *ASGARD!* ONLY THIS SKY... SAM, IT DOESN'T LOOK *RIGHT,* DOES IT?
THE ASGARD?!? AS IN THE HOME OF THE *NORSE GODS?* WHAT ARE WE DOING THERE?
WE TOLD YOU DANI WAS CHOSEN TA BE A *VALKYRIE,* RIC. THIS *MUST* HAVE SOMETHIN' TA DO WITH *HER*... AND THAT... *THING* THAT SHE'S BECOME.
SOMEBODY MUSTA *BROUGHT* US HERE. BUT WHO? AN' *WHY?* AN' WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?*
RUSTY AND *SKIDS,* IN SELF-IMPOSED CAPTIVITY, WAIT FOR THE *NEW MUTANTS* TO RETURN... UNAWARE THAT THEIR TEAMMATES HAVE JUST BEEN FLUNG INTO ANOTHER *DIMENSION,* WHERE THEY MUST FIGHT THE MOST DESPERATE BATTLE OF THEIR LIVES.
ASGARD!
YOU'LL HATE YOURSELF IF YOU *MISS* AN ISSUE OF IT!

MARVEL®
THE·NEW
MUTANTS®
TM
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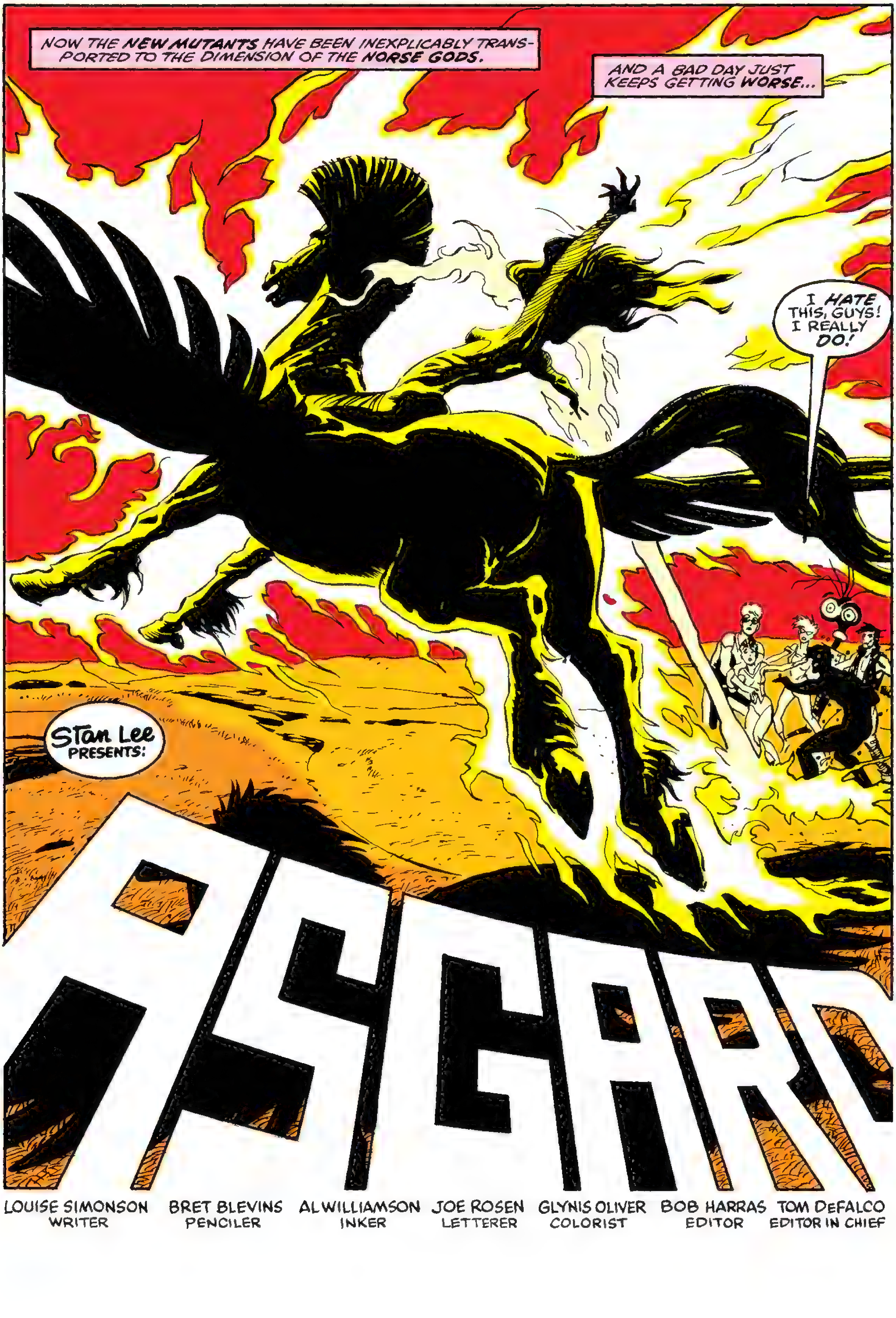
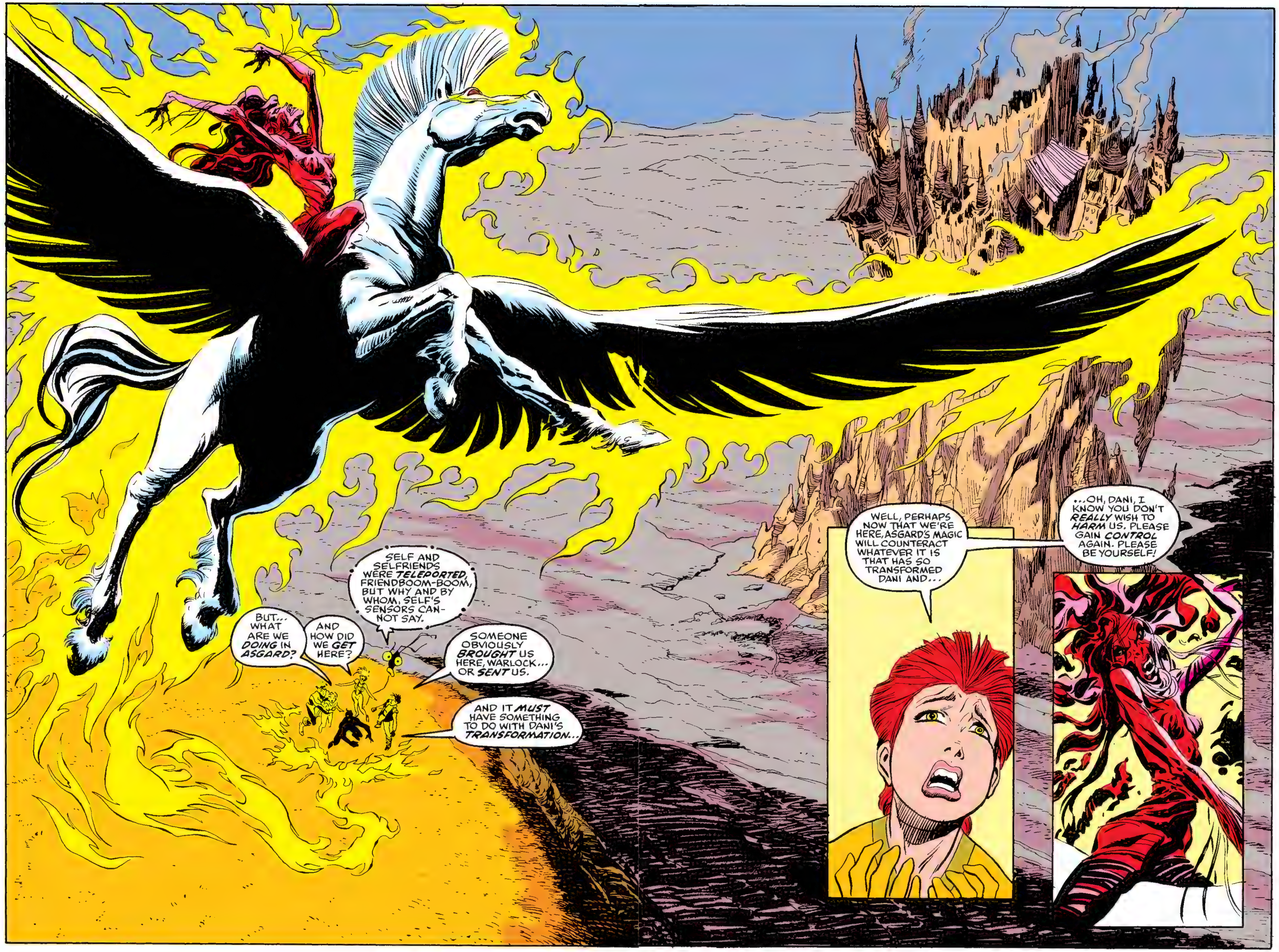
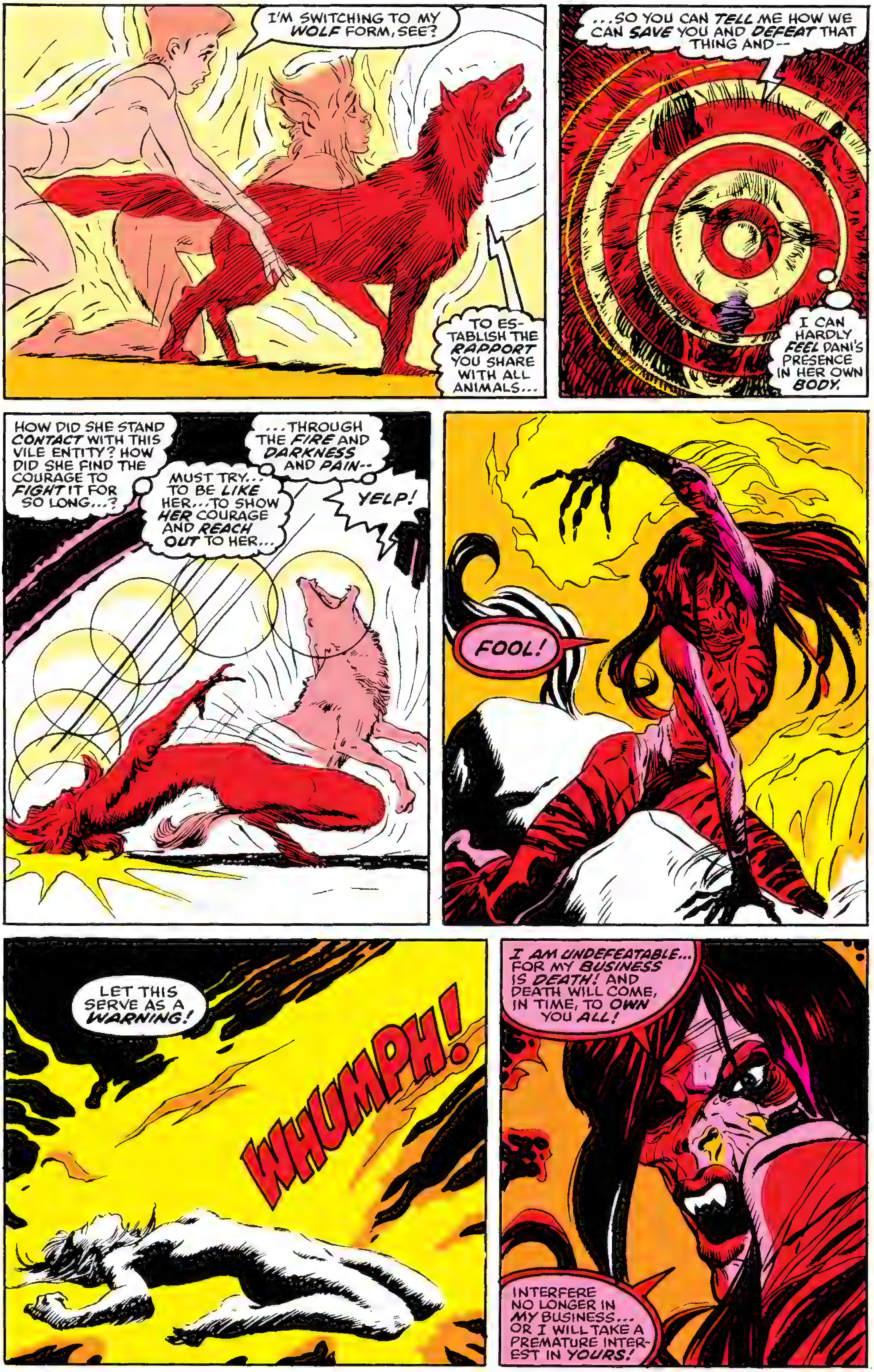
SEPT
02207
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BENEATH THE HALLS OF ASGARD--
BOOM-BOOM GOES WILD!

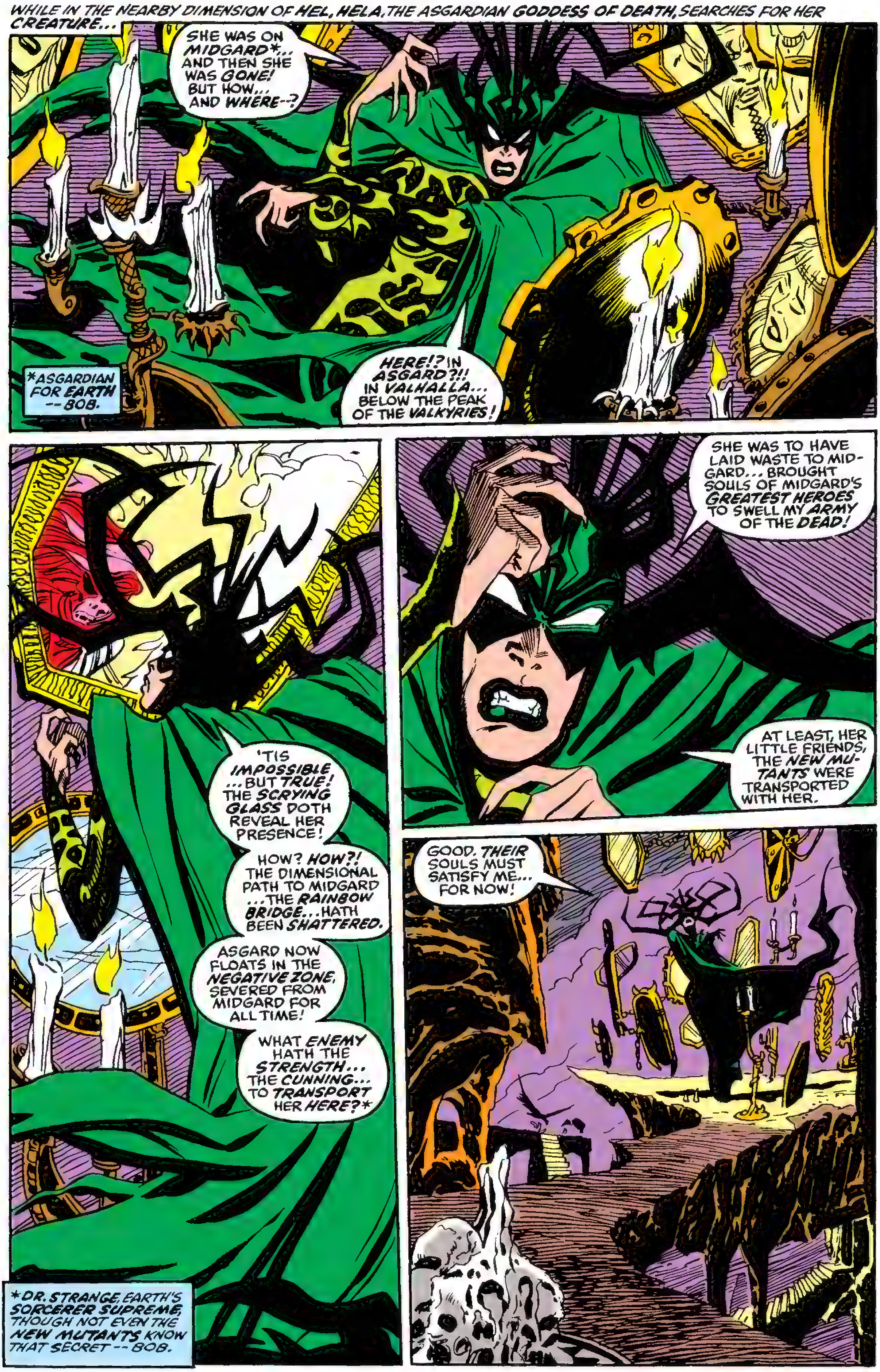
EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN **NOTHING** SEEMS TO GO RIGHT? WELL, THE **NEW MUTANTS** HAVE HAD THAT KIND OF **WEEK**. THEIR CO-LEADER, **DANIELLE MOONSTAR**, HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY AN UNKNOWN FLAMING ENTITY; TWO OF THEIR TEAMMATES WERE CAPTURED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S MUTANT POLICE, **FREEDOM FORCE**; AND THEIR SHIP-HEADQUARTERS DISAPPEARED INTO OUTER SPACE WITH THEIR MENTORS, **X-FACTOR**, ON BOARD.

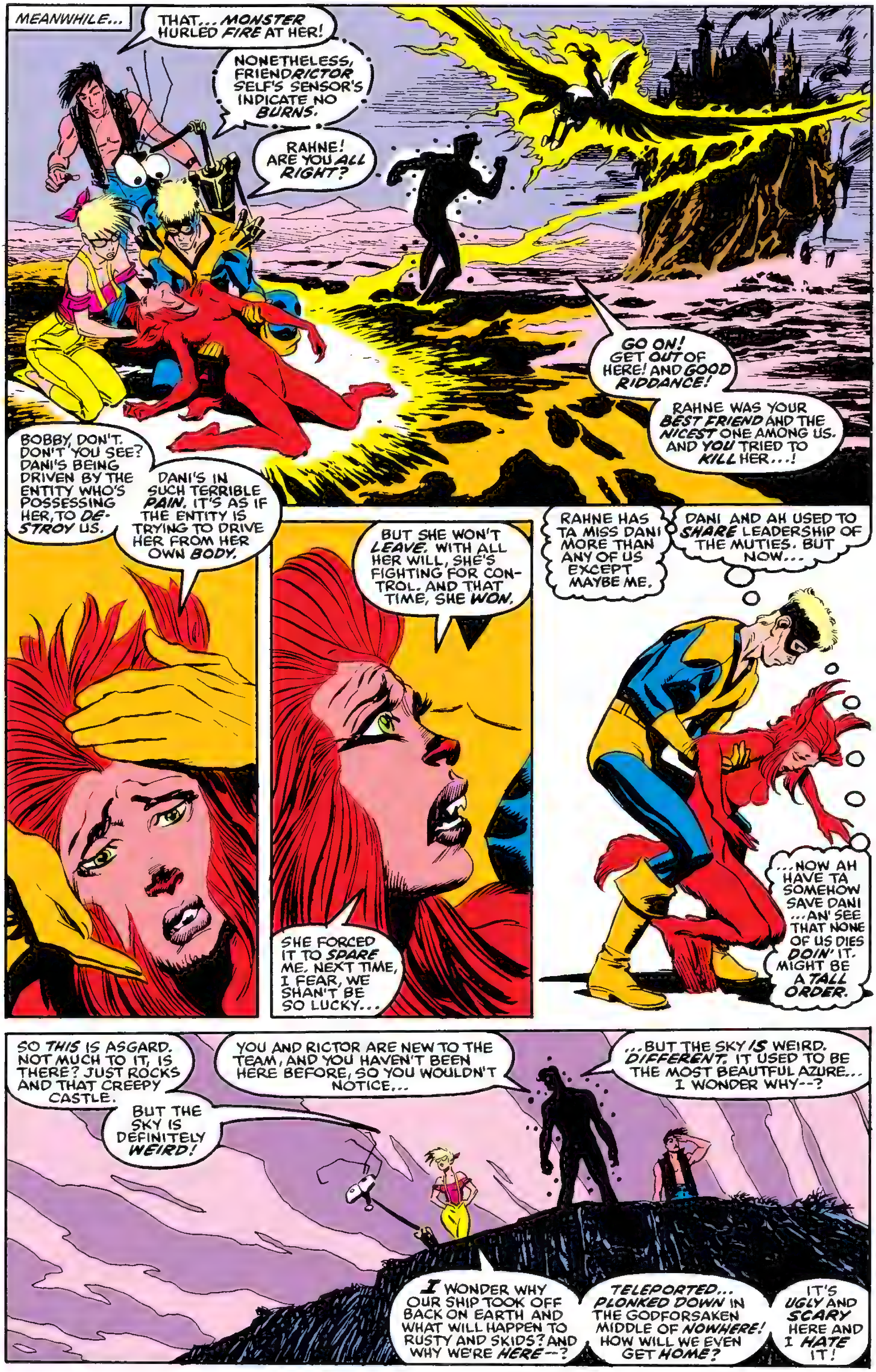

NOW THE **NEW MUTANTS** HAVE BEEN INEXPLICABLY TRANSPORTED TO THE DIMENSION OF THE **NORSE GODS**.
AND A BAD DAY JUST KEEPS GETTING **WORSE**...
I **HATE** THIS, GUYS! I REALLY **DO!**
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
ASGARD

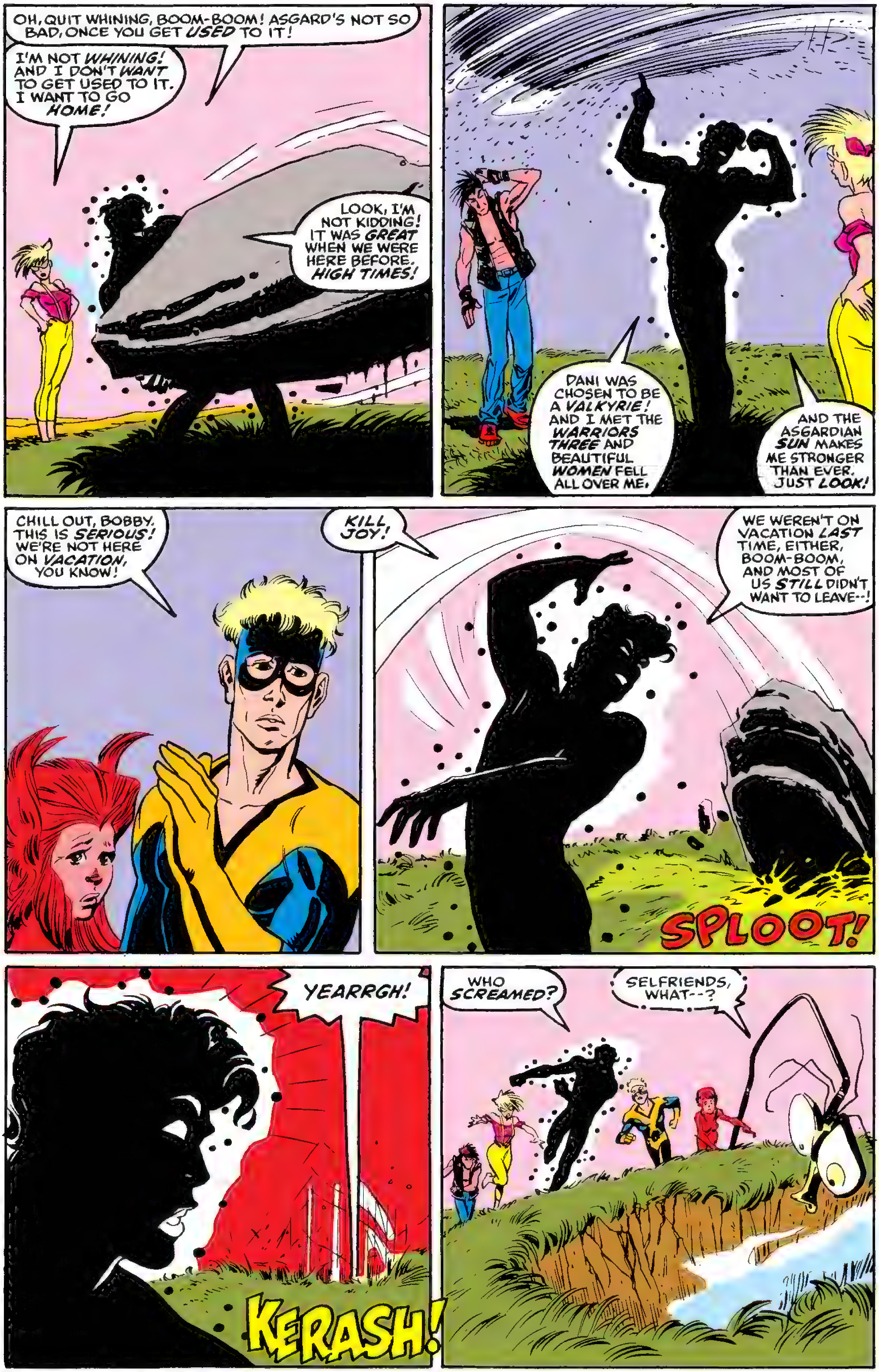
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · BRET BLEVINS PENCILER · AL WILLIAMSON INKER · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

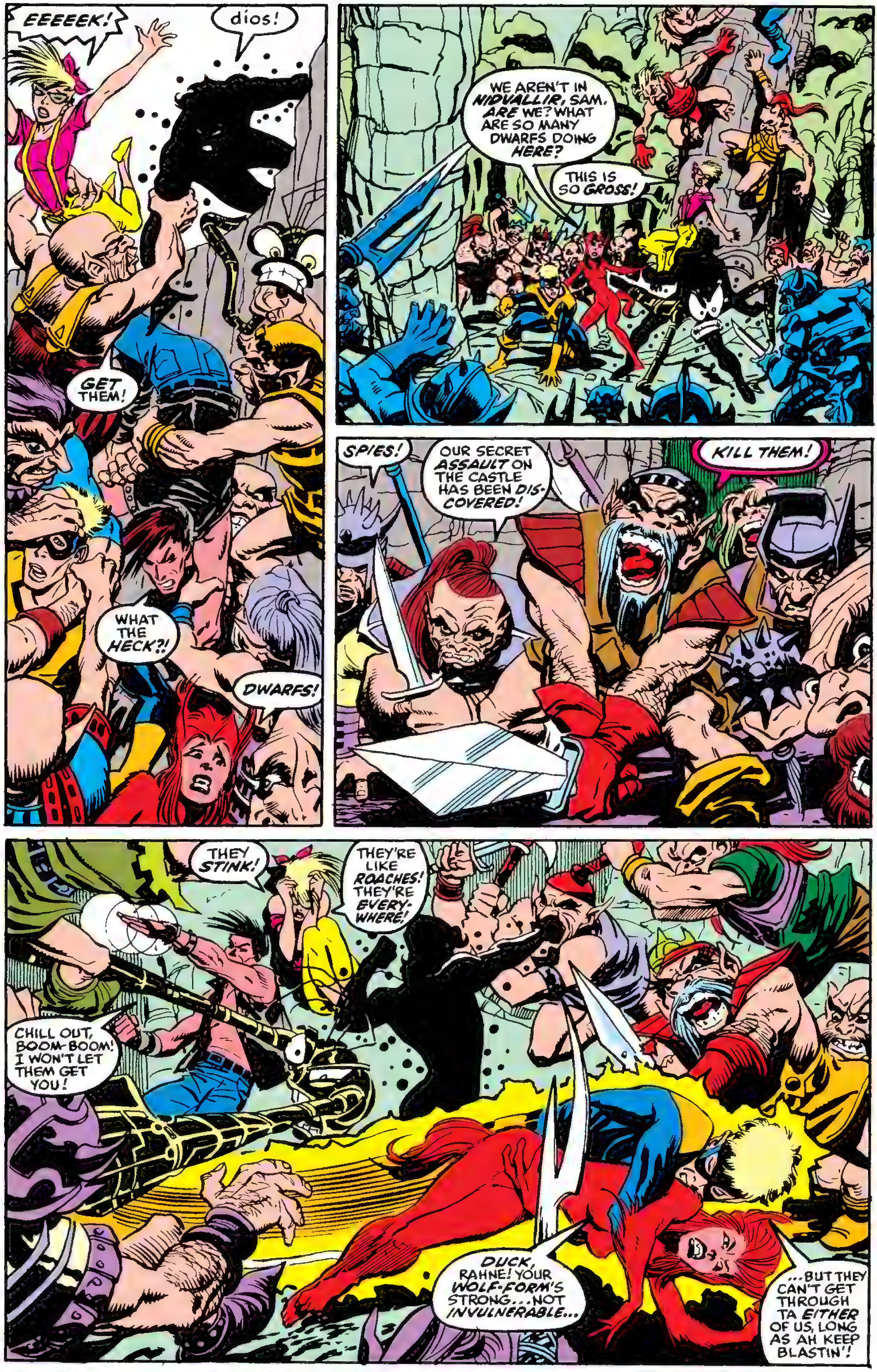

BUT... WHAT ARE WE *DOING* IN *ASGARD?*
AND HOW DID WE *GET* HERE?
SELF AND SELFRIENDS WERE *TELEPORTED,* FRIENDBOOM-BOOM, BUT WHY AND BY WHOM, SELF'S SENSORS CANNOT SAY.
SOMEONE OBVIOUSLY *BROUGHT* US HERE, WARLOCK... OR *SENT* US.
AND IT *MUST* HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH DANI'S *TRANSFORMATION...*
WELL, PERHAPS NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, ASGARD'S MAGIC WILL COUNTERACT WHATEVER IT IS THAT HAS SO TRANSFORMED DANI AND...
...OH, DANI, I KNOW YOU DON'T *REALLY* WISH TO *HARM* US. PLEASE GAIN *CONTROL* AGAIN. PLEASE BE YOURSELF!

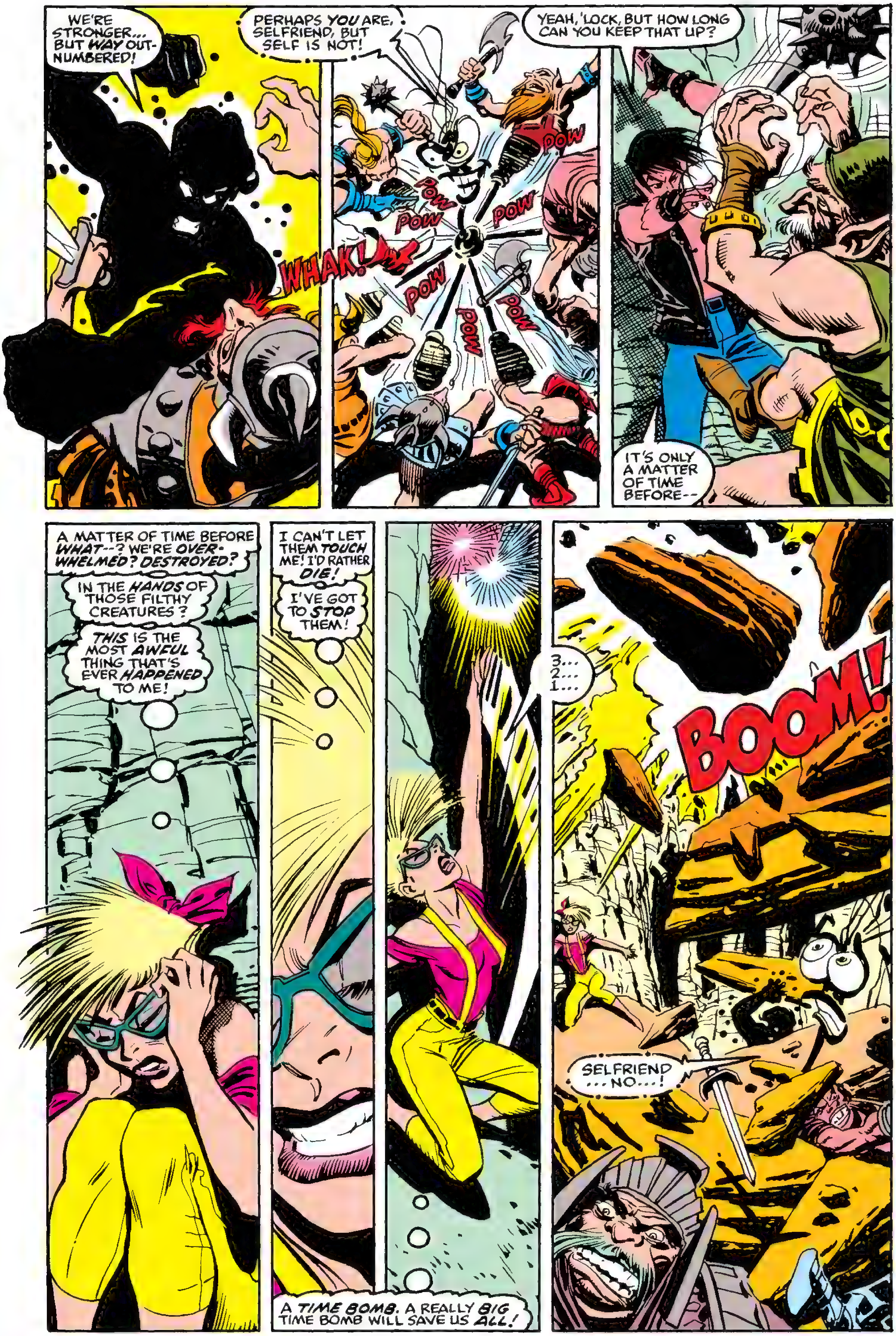

I'M SWITCHING TO MY *WOLF* FORM, SEE?
TO ESTABLISH THE *RAPPORT* YOU SHARE WITH ALL ANIMALS...
...SO YOU CAN *TELL* ME HOW WE CAN *SAVE* YOU AND *DEFEAT* THAT THING AND--
I CAN HARDLY *FEEL* DANI'S PRESENCE IN HER OWN *BODY*.
HOW DID SHE STAND *CONTACT* WITH THIS VILE ENTITY? HOW DID SHE FIND THE COURAGE TO *FIGHT* IT FOR SO LONG...?
MUST TRY... TO BE *LIKE* HER... TO SHOW *HER* COURAGE AND *REACH OUT* TO HER...
...THROUGH THE *FIRE* AND *DARKNESS* AND *PAIN*--
YELP!
FOOL!
LET THIS SERVE AS A *WARNING*!
WHUMPH!
I AM UNDEFEATABLE... FOR MY *BUSINESS* IS *DEATH!* AND DEATH WILL COME, IN TIME, TO *OWN* YOU *ALL!*
INTERFERE NO LONGER IN *MY* BUSINESS... OR I WILL TAKE A PREMATURE INTEREST IN *YOURS!*

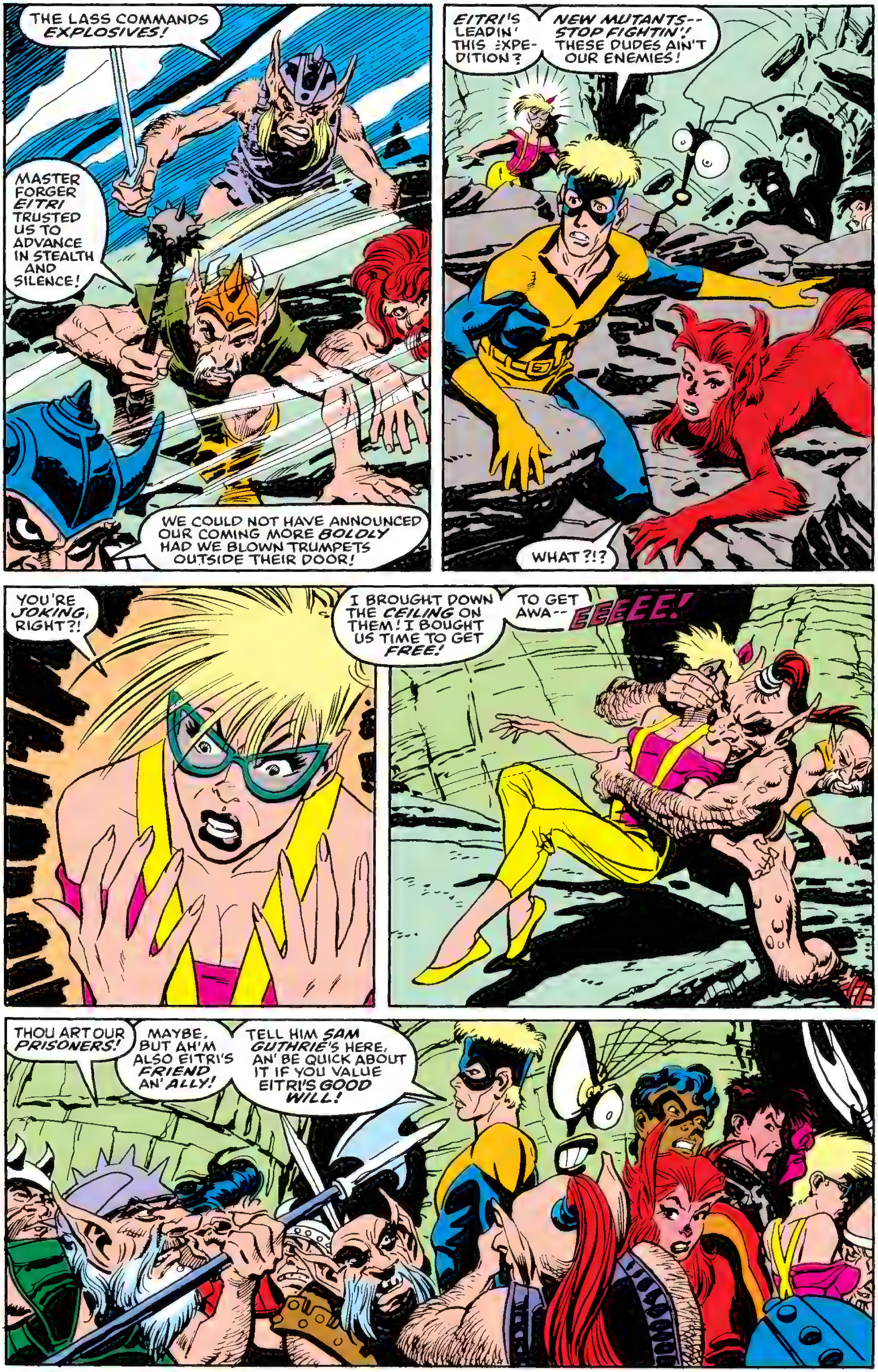

WHILE IN THE NEARBY DIMENSION OF HEL, HELA, THE ASGARDIAN GODDESS OF DEATH, SEARCHES FOR HER CREATURE...
SHE WAS ON MIDGARD*... AND THEN SHE WAS GONE! BUT HOW... AND WHERE--?
HERE!? IN ASGARD?!! IN VALHALLA... BELOW THE PEAK OF THE VALKYRIES!
*ASGARDIAN FOR EARTH --BOB.
'TIS IMPOSSIBLE ...BUT TRUE! THE SCRYING GLASS DOTH REVEAL HER PRESENCE!
HOW? HOW?! THE DIMENSIONAL PATH TO MIDGARD ...THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...HATH BEEN SHATTERED.
ASGARD NOW FLOATS IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE, SEVERED FROM MIDGARD FOR ALL TIME!
WHAT ENEMY HATH THE STRENGTH... THE CUNNING... TO TRANSPORT HER HERE?*
*DR. STRANGE, EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME, THOUGH NOT EVEN THE NEW MUTANTS KNOW THAT SECRET --BOB.
SHE WAS TO HAVE LAID WASTE TO MIDGARD... BROUGHT SOULS OF MIDGARD'S GREATEST HEROES TO SWELL MY ARMY OF THE DEAD!
AT LEAST, HER LITTLE FRIENDS, THE NEW MUTANTS WERE TRANSPORTED WITH HER.
GOOD. THEIR SOULS MUST SATISFY ME... FOR NOW!

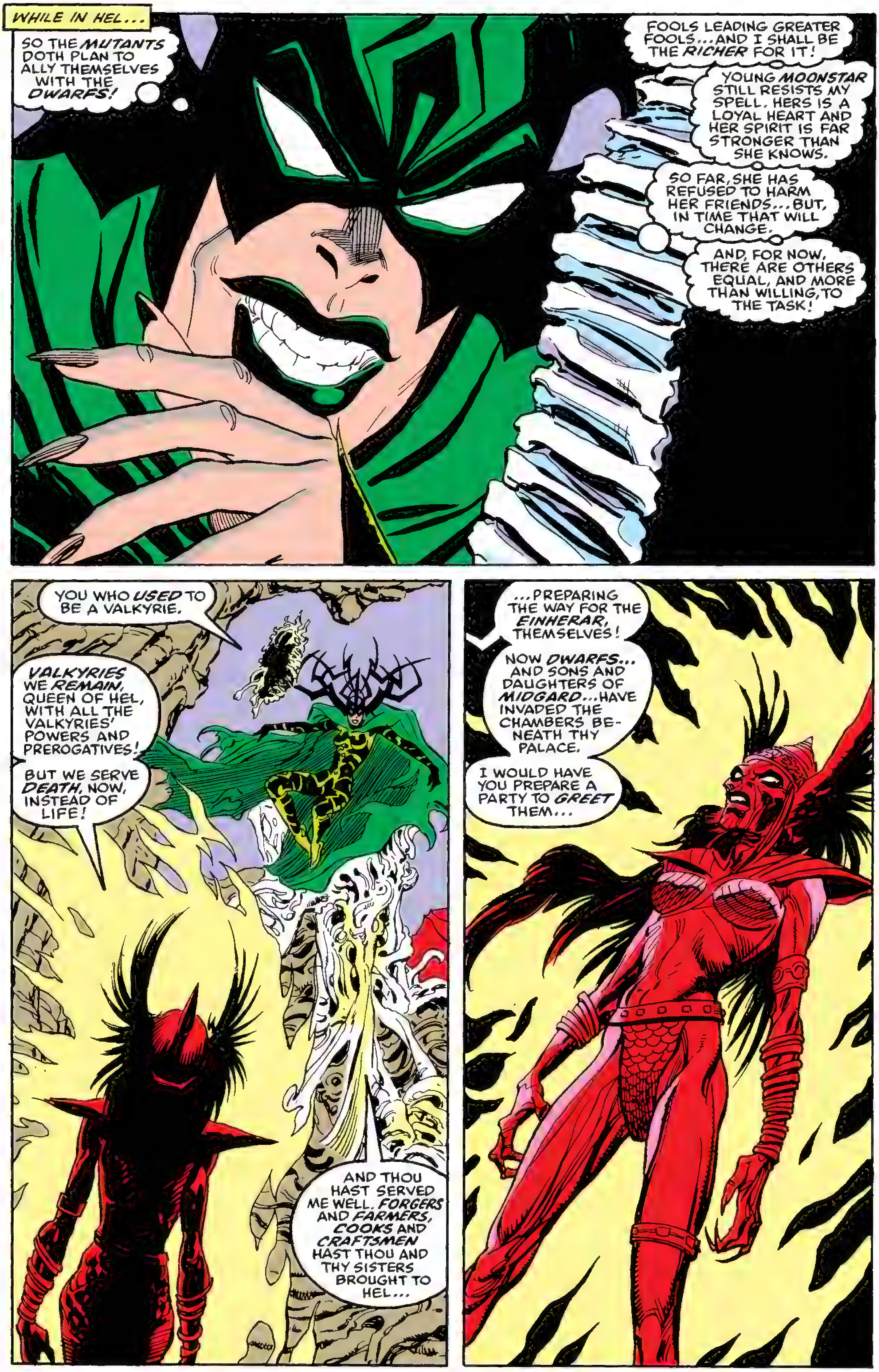

MEANWHILE...
THAT... *MONSTER* HURLED *FIRE* AT HER!
NONETHELESS, FRIEND *RICTOR* SELF'S SENSOR'S INDICATE NO *BURNS.*
RAHNE! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
GO ON! GET *OUT* OF HERE! AND *GOOD RIDDANCE!*
RAHNE WAS YOUR *BEST FRIEND* AND THE *NICEST* ONE AMONG US. AND *YOU* TRIED TO *KILL* HER...!
BOBBY, DON'T. DON'T YOU SEE? DANI'S BEING DRIVEN BY THE ENTITY WHO'S POSSESSING HER, TO *DESTROY* US.
DANI'S IN SUCH TERRIBLE *PAIN.* IT'S AS IF THE ENTITY IS TRYING TO DRIVE HER FROM HER OWN *BODY.*
BUT SHE WON'T *LEAVE.* WITH ALL HER WILL, SHE'S FIGHTING FOR CONTROL. AND THAT TIME, SHE *WON.*
SHE FORCED IT TO *SPARE* ME. NEXT TIME, I FEAR, WE SHAN'T BE SO LUCKY...
RAHNE HAS TA MISS DANI MORE THAN ANY OF US EXCEPT MAYBE ME.
DANI AND AH USED TO *SHARE* LEADERSHIP OF THE MUTIES. BUT NOW...
...NOW AH HAVE TA SOMEHOW SAVE DANI ...AN' SEE THAT NONE OF US DIES *DOIN'* IT. MIGHT BE A *TALL ORDER.*
SO *THIS* IS ASGARD. NOT MUCH TO IT, IS THERE? JUST ROCKS AND THAT CREEPY CASTLE.
BUT THE SKY IS DEFINITELY *WEIRD!*
YOU AND RICTOR ARE NEW TO THE TEAM, AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE, SO YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE...
...BUT THE SKY *IS* WEIRD. *DIFFERENT.* IT USED TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AZURE... I WONDER WHY--?
I WONDER WHY OUR SHIP TOOK OFF BACK ON EARTH AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO RUSTY AND SKIDS? AND WHY WE'RE *HERE*--?
TELEPORTED... PLONKED DOWN IN THE GODFORSAKEN MIDDLE OF *NOWHERE!* HOW WILL WE EVEN GET *HOME?*
IT'S *UGLY* AND *SCARY* HERE AND I *HATE* IT!

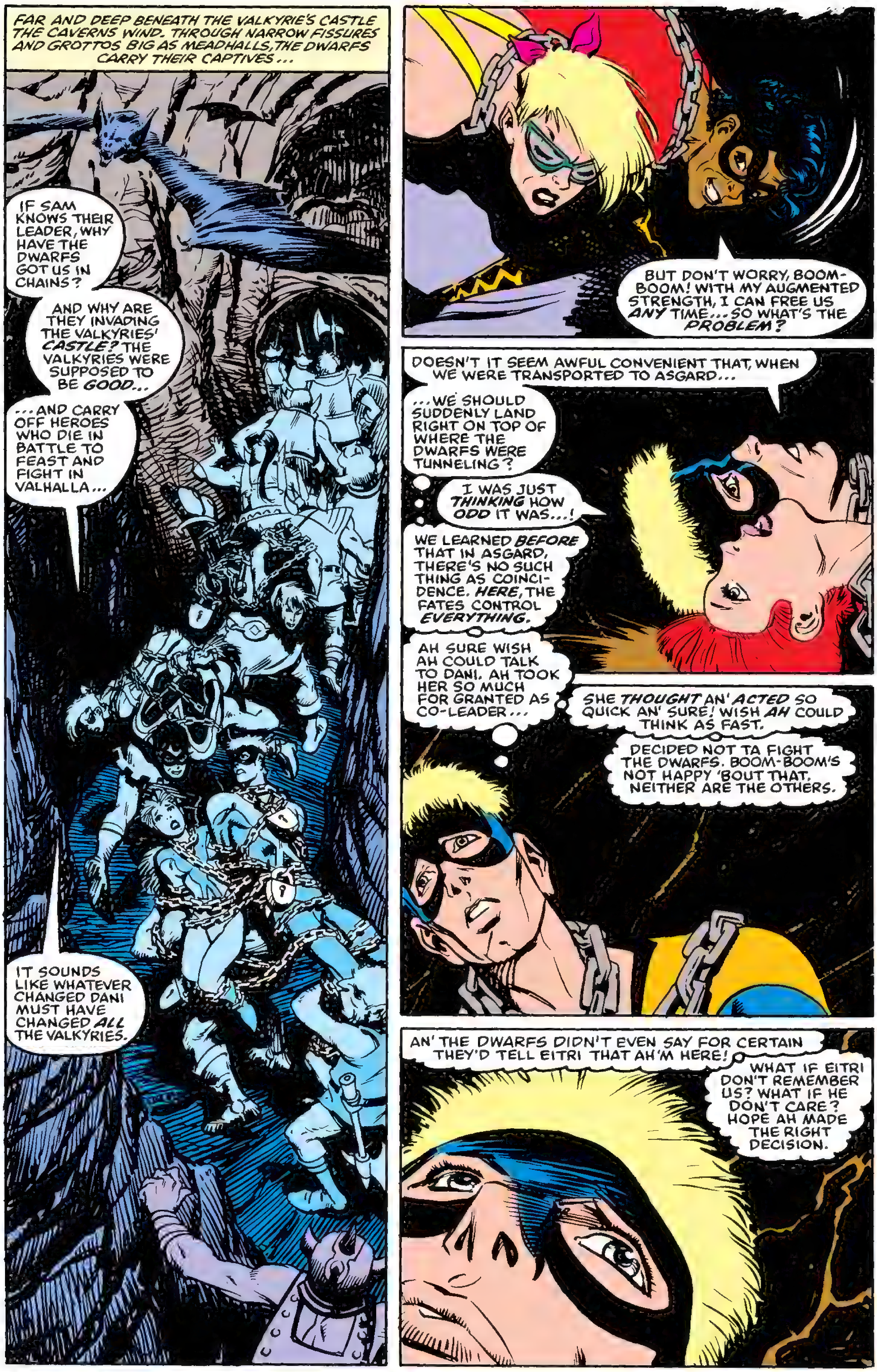

OH, QUIT WHINING, BOOM-BOOM! ASGARD'S NOT SO BAD, ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT!
I'M NOT WHINING! AND I DON'T WANT TO GET USED TO IT. I WANT TO GO HOME!
LOOK, I'M NOT KIDDING! IT WAS GREAT WHEN WE WERE HERE BEFORE. HIGH TIMES!
DANI WAS CHOSEN TO BE A VALKYRIE! AND I MET THE WARRIORS THREE AND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN FELL ALL OVER ME.
AND THE ASGARDIAN SUN MAKES ME STRONGER THAN EVER. JUST LOOK!
CHILL OUT, BOBBY. THIS IS SERIOUS! WE'RE NOT HERE ON VACATION, YOU KNOW!
KILL JOY!
WE WEREN'T ON VACATION LAST TIME, EITHER, BOOM-BOOM, AND MOST OF US STILL DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE--!
SPLOOT!
YEARRGH!
KERASH!
WHO SCREAMED?
SELFRIENDS, WHAT--?

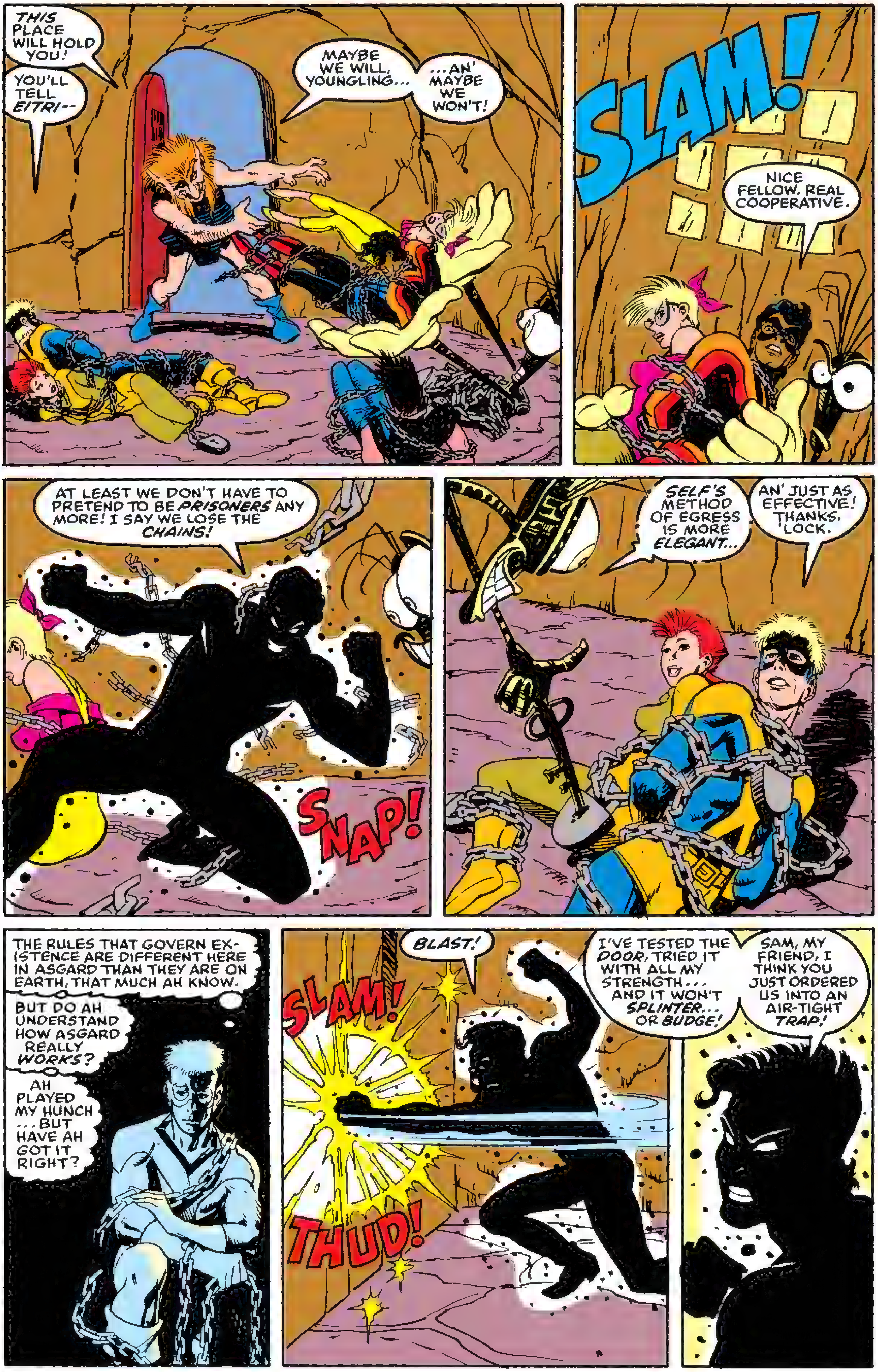

EEEEEK!
dios!
GET THEM!
WHAT THE HECK?!
DWARFS!
WE AREN'T IN NIDVALLIR, SAM. ARE WE? WHAT ARE SO MANY DWARFS DOING HERE?
THIS IS SO GROSS!
SPIES!
OUR SECRET ASSAULT ON THE CASTLE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED!
KILL THEM!
THEY STINK!
THEY'RE LIKE ROACHES! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
CHILL OUT, BOOM-BOOM! I WON'T LET THEM GET YOU!
DUCK, RAHNE! YOUR WOLF-FORM'S STRONG... NOT INVULNERABLE...
...BUT THEY CAN'T GET THROUGH TA EITHER OF US, LONG AS AH KEEP BLASTIN'!


WE'RE STRONGER... BUT *WAY* OUT-NUMBERED!
WHAK!
PERHAPS *YOU* ARE, SELFRIEND, BUT SELF IS NOT!
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
YEAH, 'LOCK, BUT HOW LONG CAN YOU KEEP THAT UP?
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE--
A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE *WHAT*--? WE'RE *OVERWHELMED? DESTROYED?*
IN THE *HANDS* OF THOSE FILTHY CREATURES?
THIS IS THE MOST *AWFUL* THING THAT'S EVER *HAPPENED* TO ME!
I CAN'T LET THEM *TOUCH* ME! I'D RATHER *DIE!*
I'VE GOT TO *STOP* THEM!
A *TIME BOMB.* A REALLY *BIG* TIME BOMB WILL SAVE US *ALL!*
3... 2... 1...
BOOM!
SELFRIEND ...NO...!

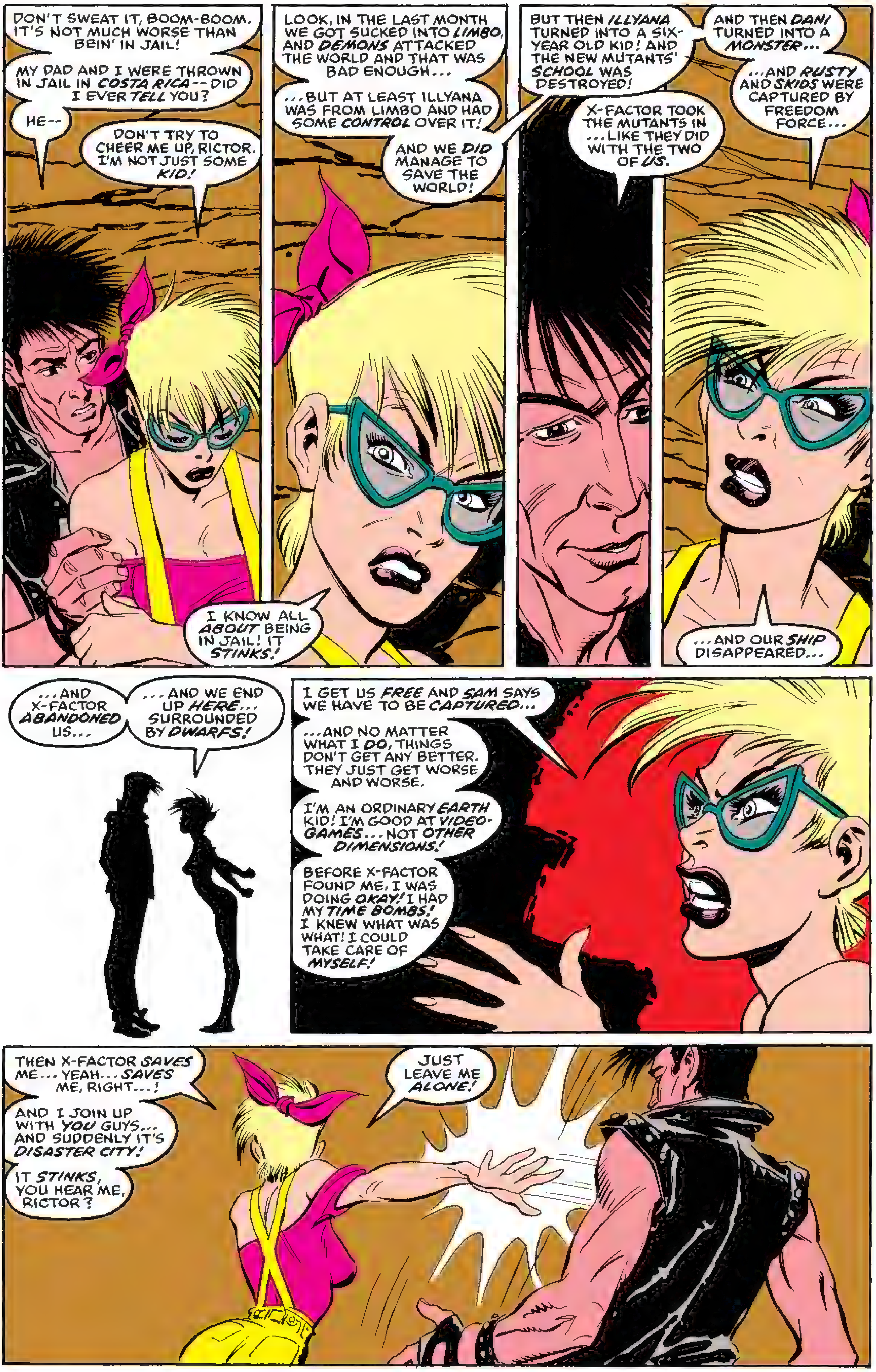

THE LASS COMMANDS *EXPLOSIVES!*
MASTER FORGER *EITRI* TRUSTED US TO ADVANCE IN STEALTH AND SILENCE!
WE COULD NOT HAVE ANNOUNCED OUR COMING MORE *BOLDLY* HAD WE BLOWN TRUMPETS OUTSIDE THEIR DOOR!
EITRI'S LEADIN' THIS EXPEDITION?
NEW MUTANTS-- STOP FIGHTIN'! THESE DUDES AIN'T OUR ENEMIES!
WHAT?!?
YOU'RE *JOKING,* RIGHT?!
I BROUGHT DOWN THE *CEILING* ON THEM! I BOUGHT US TIME TO GET *FREE!*
TO GET AWA--
EEEEEE!
THOU ART OUR *PRISONERS!*
MAYBE. BUT AH'M ALSO EITRI'S *FRIEND* AN' *ALLY!*
TELL HIM *SAM GUTHRIE'S* HERE, AN' BE QUICK ABOUT IT IF YOU VALUE EITRI'S *GOOD WILL!*

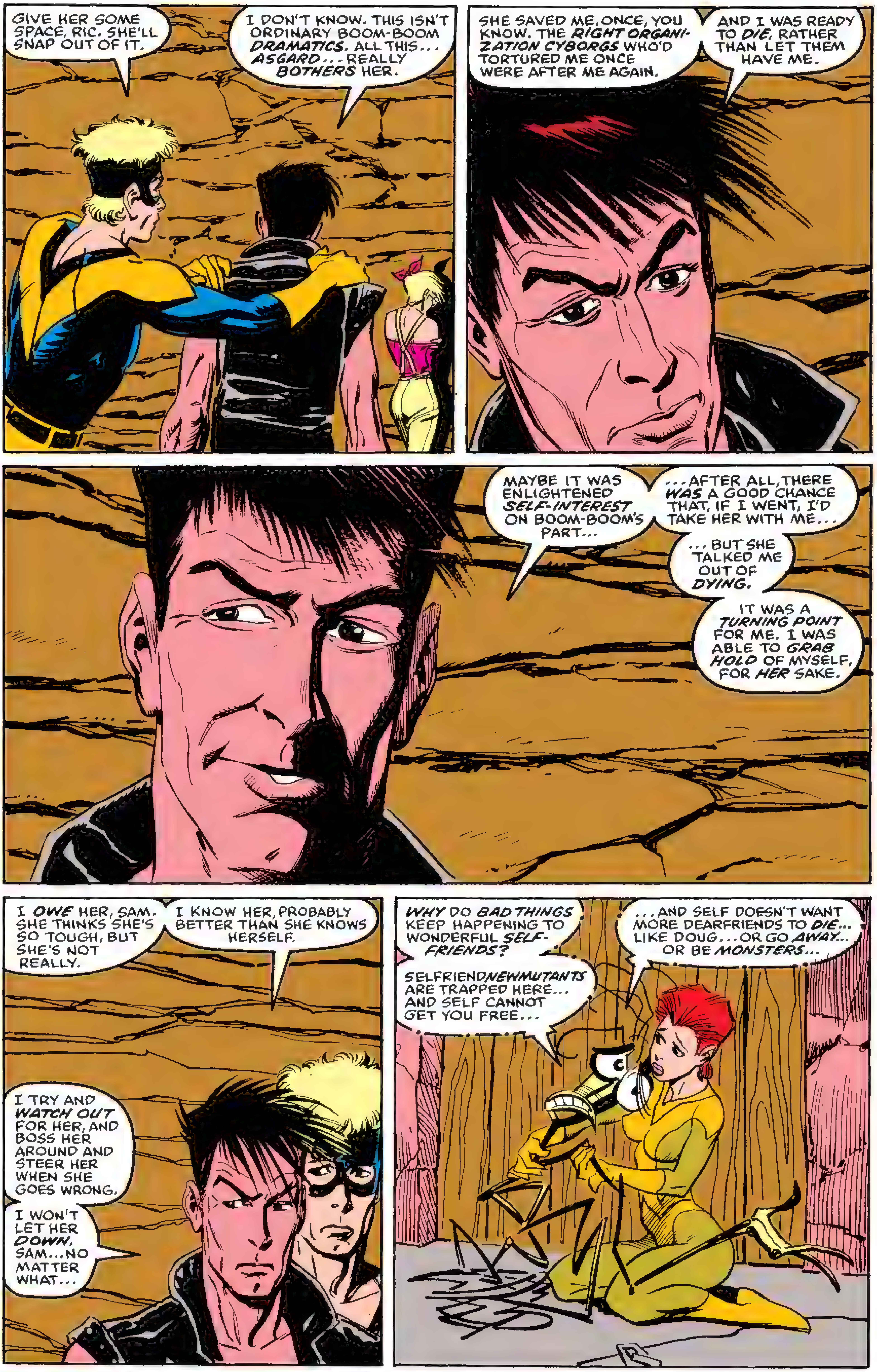

WHILE IN HEL...
SO THE *MUTANTS* DOTH PLAN TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE *DWARFS!*
FOOLS LEADING GREATER FOOLS... AND I SHALL BE THE *RICHER* FOR IT!
YOUNG *MOONSTAR* STILL RESISTS MY SPELL. HERS IS A LOYAL HEART AND HER SPIRIT IS FAR STRONGER THAN SHE KNOWS.
SO FAR, SHE HAS REFUSED TO HARM HER FRIENDS... BUT, IN TIME THAT WILL CHANGE.
AND, FOR NOW, THERE ARE OTHERS EQUAL, AND MORE THAN WILLING, TO THE TASK!
YOU WHO *USED* TO BE A VALKYRIE.
VALKYRIES WE *REMAIN*, QUEEN OF HEL, WITH ALL THE VALKYRIES' POWERS AND PREROGATIVES!
BUT WE SERVE *DEATH*, NOW, INSTEAD OF LIFE!
AND THOU HAST SERVED ME WELL. *FORGERS* AND *FARMERS*, *COOKS* AND *CRAFTSMEN* HAST THOU AND THY SISTERS BROUGHT TO HEL...
...PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE *EINHERAR*, THEMSELVES!
NOW *DWARFS*... AND SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF *MIDGARD*... HAVE INVADED THE CHAMBERS BENEATH THY PALACE.
I WOULD HAVE YOU PREPARE A PARTY TO *GREET* THEM...

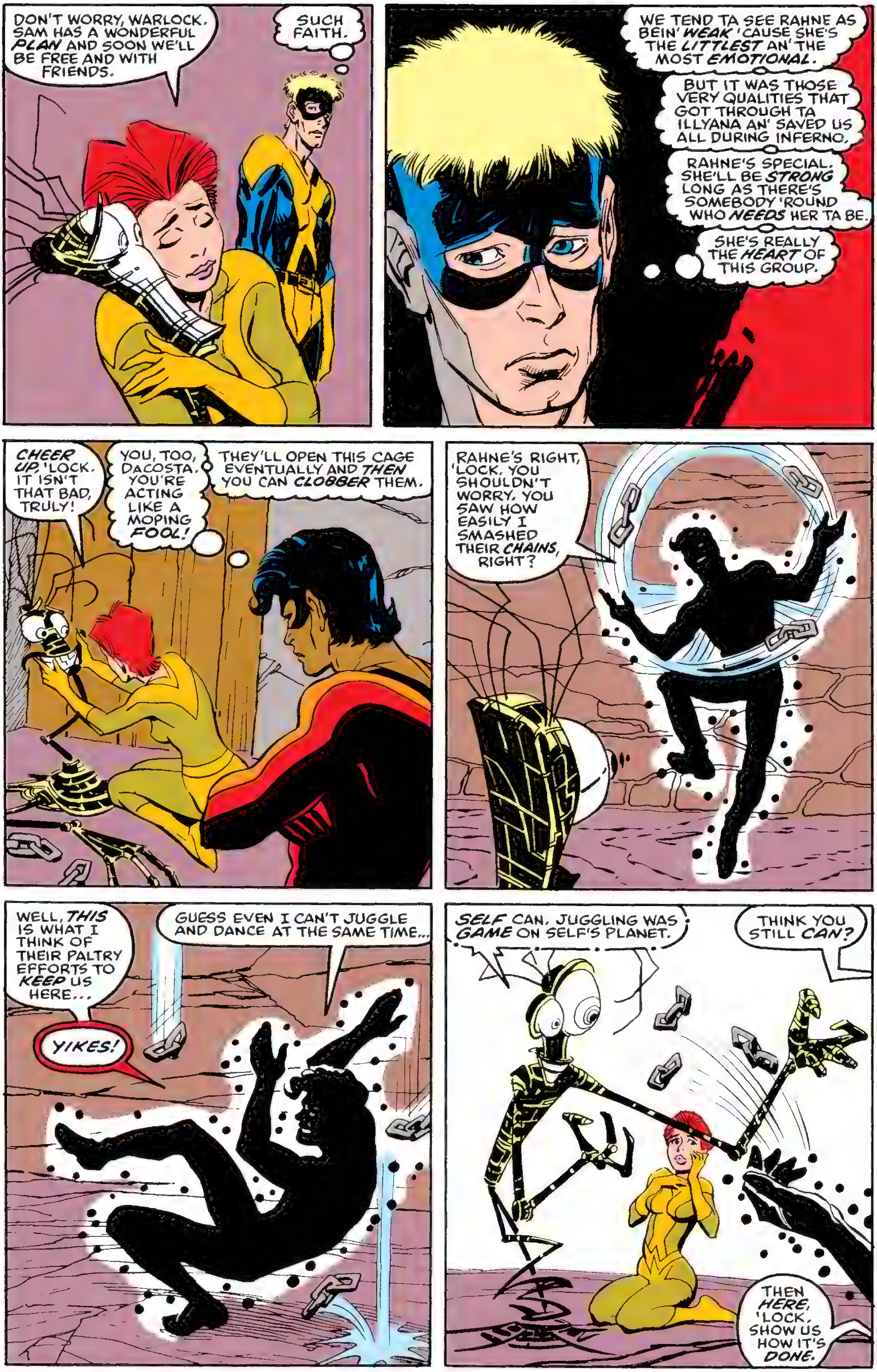

FAR AND DEEP BENEATH THE VALKYRIE'S CASTLE THE CAVERNS WIND. THROUGH NARROW FISSURES AND GROTTOS BIG AS MEADHALLS, THE DWARFS CARRY THEIR CAPTIVES...
IF SAM KNOWS THEIR LEADER, WHY HAVE THE DWARFS GOT US IN CHAINS?
AND WHY ARE THEY INVADING THE VALKYRIES' *CASTLE?* THE VALKYRIES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *GOOD*...
...AND CARRY OFF HEROES WHO DIE IN BATTLE TO FEAST AND FIGHT IN VALHALLA...
IT SOUNDS LIKE WHATEVER CHANGED DANI MUST HAVE CHANGED *ALL* THE VALKYRIES.
BUT DON'T WORRY, BOOM-BOOM! WITH MY AUGMENTED STRENGTH, I CAN FREE US *ANY* TIME... SO WHAT'S THE *PROBLEM?*
DOESN'T IT SEEM AWFUL CONVENIENT THAT, WHEN WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO ASGARD...
...WE SHOULD SUDDENLY LAND RIGHT ON TOP OF WHERE THE DWARFS WERE TUNNELING?
I WAS JUST *THINKING* HOW *ODD* IT WAS...!
WE LEARNED *BEFORE* THAT IN ASGARD, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE. *HERE*, THE FATES CONTROL *EVERYTHING*.
AH SURE WISH AH COULD TALK TO DANI. AH TOOK HER SO MUCH FOR GRANTED AS CO-LEADER...
SHE *THOUGHT* AN' *ACTED* SO QUICK AN' SURE! WISH *AH* COULD THINK AS FAST.
DECIDED NOT TA FIGHT THE DWARFS. BOOM-BOOM'S NOT HAPPY 'BOUT THAT. NEITHER ARE THE OTHERS.
AN' THE DWARFS DIDN'T EVEN SAY FOR CERTAIN THEY'D TELL EITRI THAT AH'M HERE!
WHAT IF EITRI DON'T REMEMBER US? WHAT IF HE DON'T CARE? HOPE AH MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.

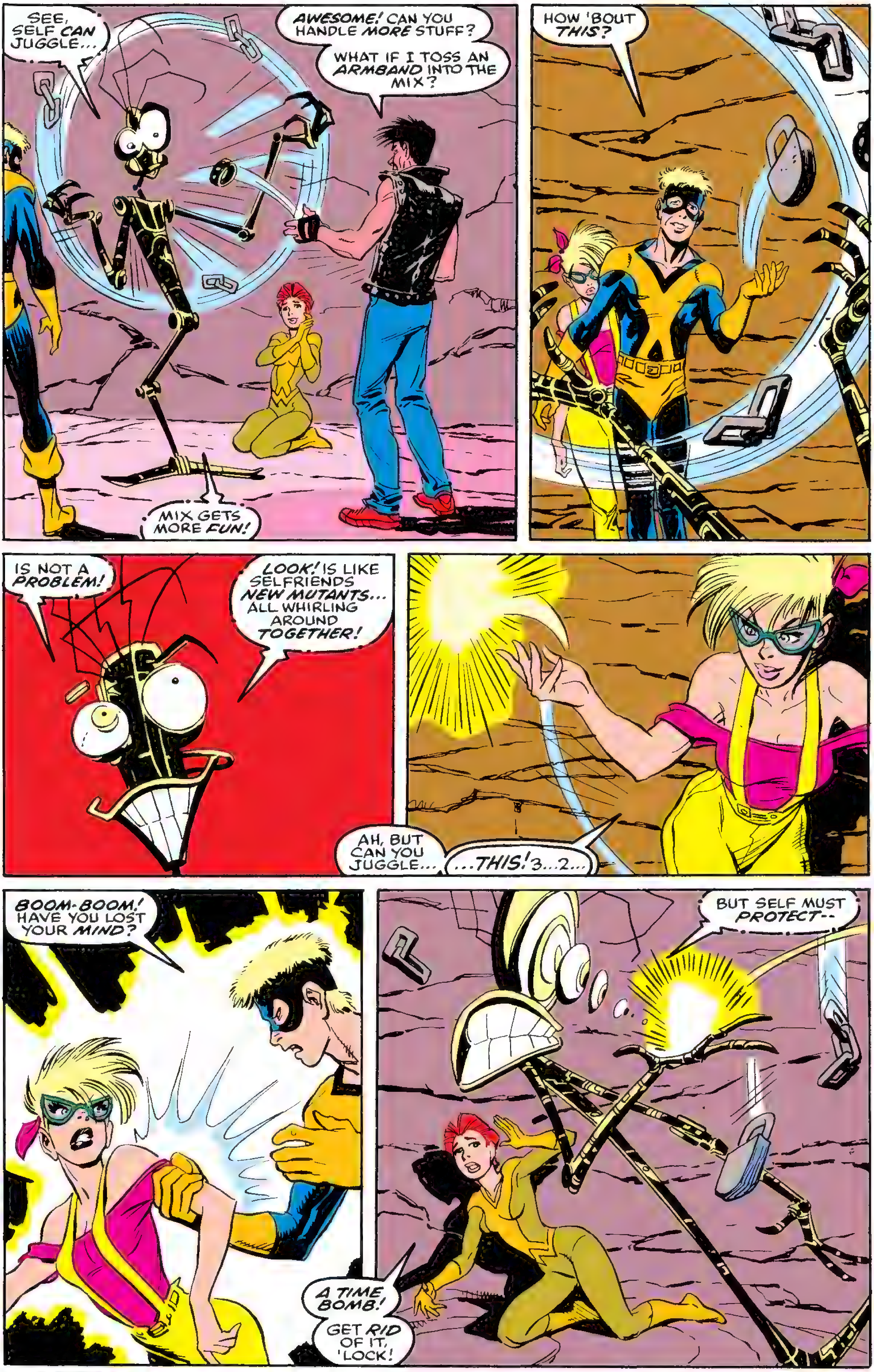

THIS PLACE WILL HOLD YOU!
YOU'LL TELL EITRI--
MAYBE WE WILL, YOUNGLING...
...AN' MAYBE WE WON'T!
SLAM!
NICE FELLOW. REAL COOPERATIVE.
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE PRISONERS ANY MORE! I SAY WE LOSE THE CHAINS!
SNAP!
SELF'S METHOD OF EGRESS IS MORE ELEGANT...
AN' JUST AS EFFECTIVE! THANKS, LOCK.
THE RULES THAT GOVERN EXISTENCE ARE DIFFERENT HERE IN ASGARD THAN THEY ARE ON EARTH, THAT MUCH AH KNOW.
BUT DO AH UNDERSTAND HOW ASGARD REALLY WORKS?
AH PLAYED MY HUNCH ...BUT HAVE AH GOT IT RIGHT?
BLAST!
SLAM!
THUD!
I'VE TESTED THE DOOR, TRIED IT WITH ALL MY STRENGTH... AND IT WON'T SPLINTER... OR BUDGE!
SAM, MY FRIEND, I THINK YOU JUST ORDERED US INTO AN AIR-TIGHT TRAP!

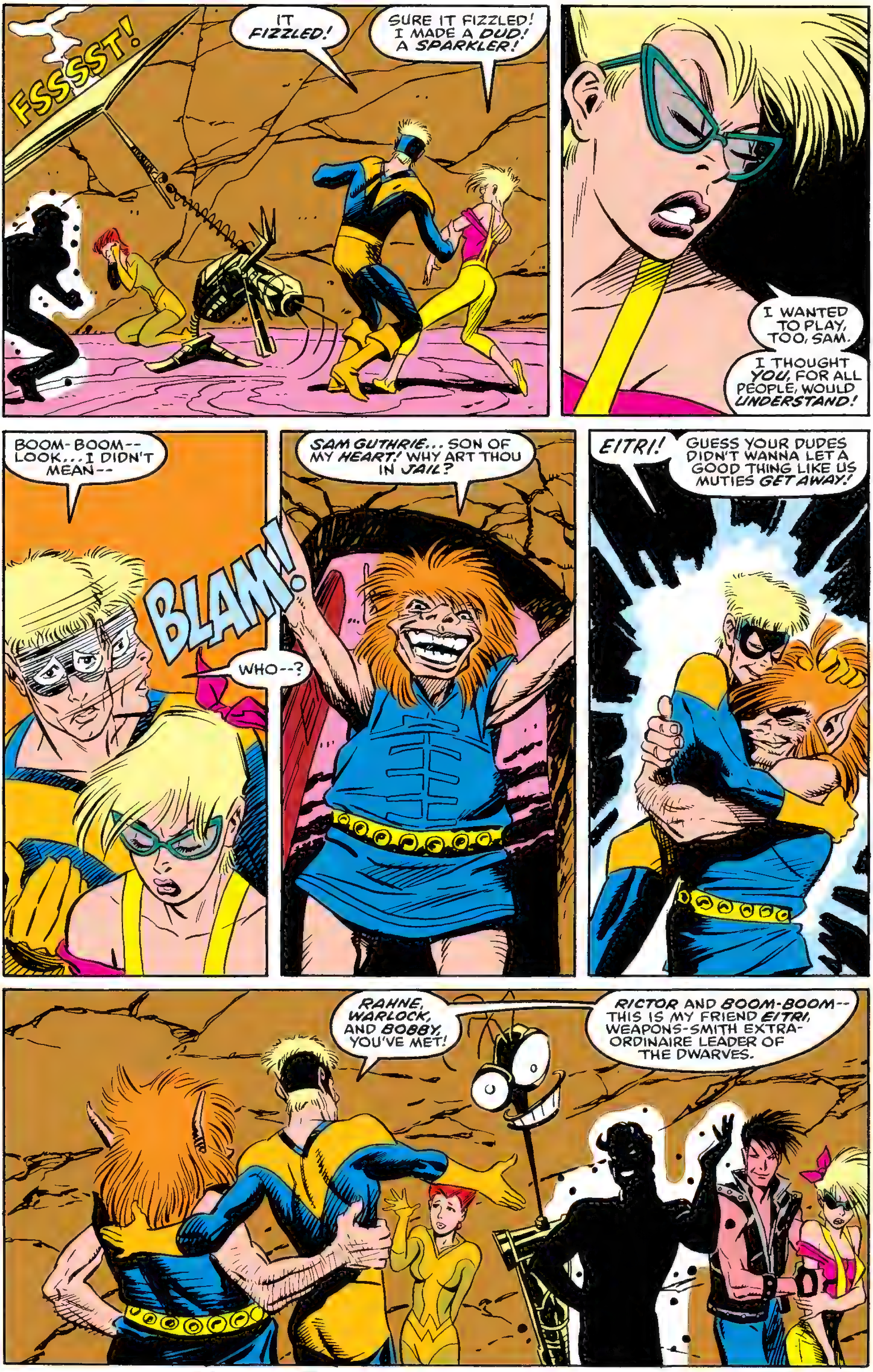
SELFRIEND *SAM* IS TOO WISE FOR SUCH A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
SELF'S *SUBTLE* APPROACH WILL FREE--
SHRAKKKT!
AAK!
LOCK... WALLS...
...SHIELDED WITH...
...MAGIC...
I *HATE* THIS! WE'LL BE STUCK HERE *FOREVER!*
I DON'T LIKE IT EITHER! *DANI* WOULDN'T HAVE STUCK US. SHE'D HAVE HAD A *PLAN!*
JUST 'CAUSE YOU DON'T *LIKE* MAH PLAN, BOBBY, DON'T MEAN AH *AIN'T GOT* ONE!
LOOK, WE DON'T *NEED* TA INSULT THE DWARFS BY BREAKIN' OUTTA THEIR CAGE.
THEY'RE A *POWER* HERE ON ASGARD. WE DON'T WANT 'EM FOR ENEMIES!
WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMETHIN' TOO BIG FOR US TA HANDLE ALONE, BOBBY.
WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE *ALLIES* WE CAN *GET.*
DWARFS. AS ALLIES. SWELL.
MAN, AH HOPE AH GUESSED RIGHT ABOUT EITRI...'CAUSE MAH ANSWER TA BOBBY WAS ONE BIG *BLUFF!*
HECK, *AH'D* BEEN COUNTIN' ON HIS STRENGTH TA BUST US OUTTA HERE IN A PINCH, ALMOST MUCH AS *HE* HAD.
WELL...IF EITRI DON'T COME THROUGH FOR ME, THERE'S ALWAYS BOOM-BOOM'S *TIME BOMBS...*

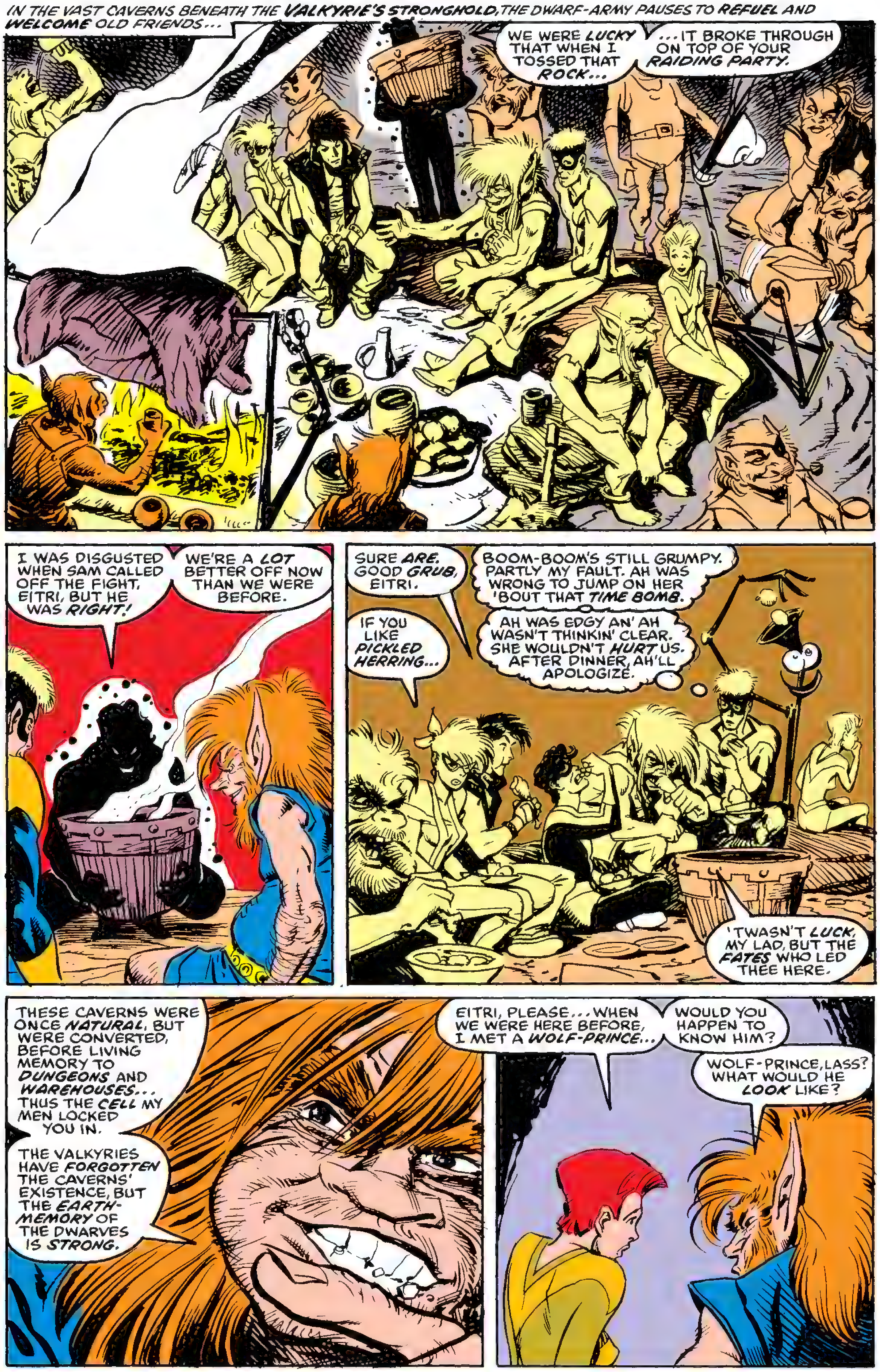

DON'T SWEAT IT, BOOM-BOOM. IT'S NOT MUCH WORSE THAN BEIN' IN JAIL!
MY DAD AND I WERE THROWN IN JAIL IN *COSTA RICA*-- DID I EVER *TELL* YOU?
HE--
DON'T TRY TO CHEER ME UP, RICTOR. I'M NOT JUST SOME *KID!*
I KNOW ALL *ABOUT* BEING IN JAIL! IT *STINKS!*
LOOK, IN THE LAST MONTH WE GOT SUCKED INTO *LIMBO*, AND *DEMONS* ATTACKED THE WORLD AND THAT WAS BAD ENOUGH...
...BUT AT LEAST ILLYANA WAS FROM LIMBO AND HAD SOME *CONTROL* OVER IT!
AND WE *DID* MANAGE TO SAVE THE WORLD!
BUT THEN *ILLYANA* TURNED INTO A SIX-YEAR OLD KID! AND THE NEW MUTANTS' *SCHOOL* WAS DESTROYED!
X-FACTOR TOOK THE MUTANTS IN ...LIKE THEY DID WITH THE TWO OF *US*.
AND THEN *DANI* TURNED INTO A *MONSTER*...
...AND *RUSTY* AND *SKIDS* WERE CAPTURED BY FREEDOM FORCE...
...AND OUR *SHIP* DISAPPEARED...
...AND X-FACTOR *ABANDONED* US...
...AND WE END UP *HERE*... SURROUNDED BY *DWARFS!*
I GET US *FREE* AND *SAM* SAYS WE HAVE TO BE *CAPTURED*...
...AND NO MATTER WHAT I *DO*, THINGS DON'T GET ANY BETTER. THEY JUST GET WORSE AND WORSE.
I'M AN ORDINARY *EARTH* KID! I'M GOOD AT *VIDEO-GAMES*... NOT *OTHER DIMENSIONS!*
BEFORE X-FACTOR FOUND ME, I WAS DOING *OKAY!* I HAD MY *TIME BOMBS!* I KNEW WHAT WAS WHAT! I COULD TAKE CARE OF *MYSELF!*
THEN X-FACTOR *SAVES* ME... YEAH... *SAVES* ME, RIGHT...!
AND I JOIN UP WITH *YOU* GUYS... AND SUDDENLY IT'S *DISASTER CITY!*
IT *STINKS*, YOU HEAR ME, RICTOR?
JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE!*

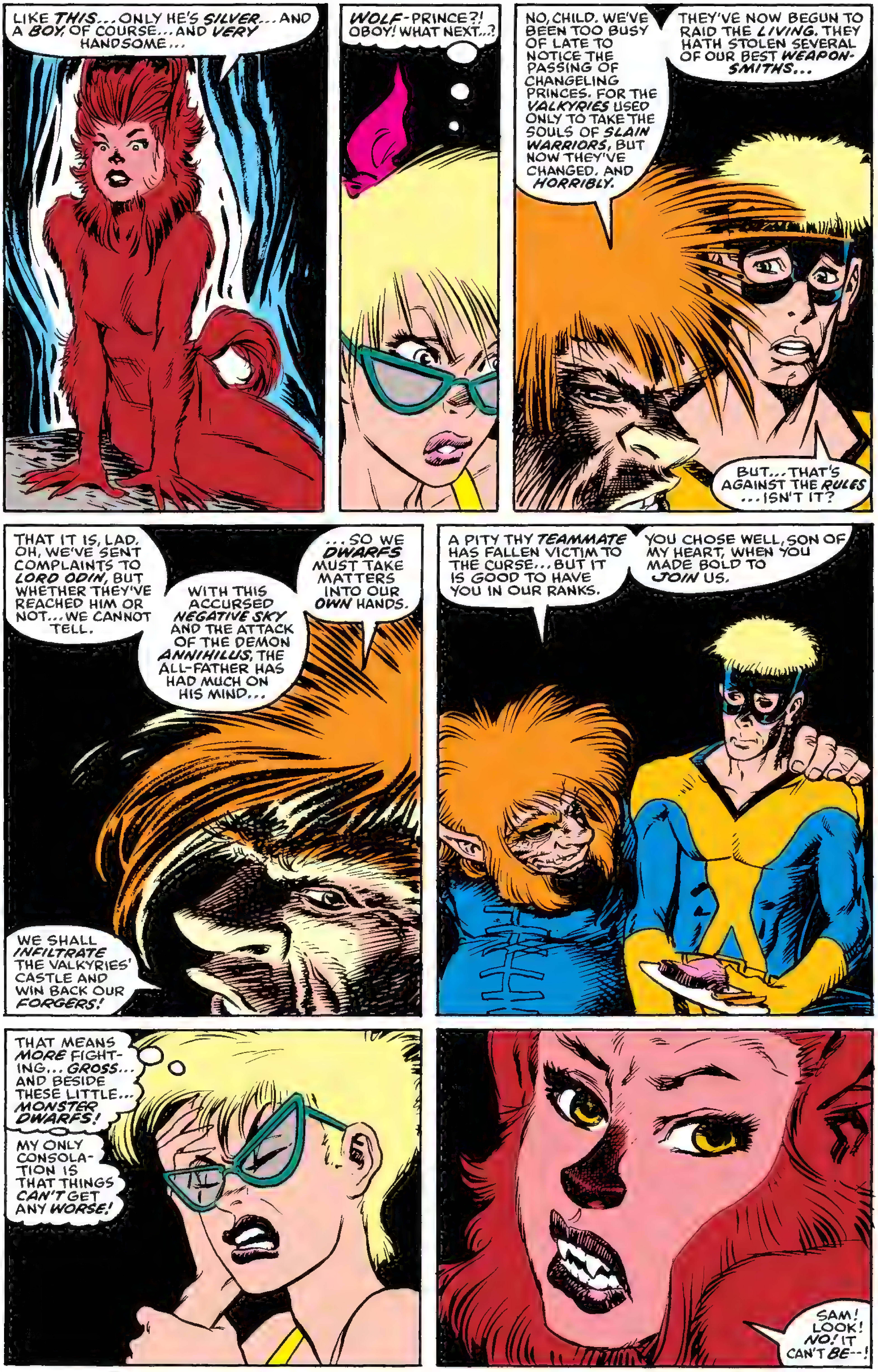

GIVE HER SOME SPACE, RIC. SHE'LL SNAP OUT OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW. THIS ISN'T ORDINARY BOOM-BOOM *DRAMATICS*. ALL THIS... *ASGARD*... REALLY *BOTHERS* HER.
SHE SAVED ME, ONCE, YOU KNOW. THE *RIGHT ORGANIZATION CYBORGS* WHO'D TORTURED ME ONCE WERE AFTER ME AGAIN.
AND I WAS READY TO *DIE*, RATHER THAN LET THEM HAVE ME.
MAYBE IT WAS ENLIGHTENED *SELF-INTEREST* ON BOOM-BOOM'S PART...
...AFTER ALL, THERE *WAS* A GOOD CHANCE THAT, IF I WENT, I'D TAKE HER WITH ME...
...BUT SHE TALKED ME OUT OF *DYING*.
IT WAS A *TURNING POINT* FOR ME. I WAS ABLE TO *GRAB HOLD* OF MYSELF, FOR *HER* SAKE.
I *OWE* HER, SAM. SHE THINKS SHE'S SO TOUGH, BUT SHE'S NOT REALLY.
I KNOW HER, PROBABLY BETTER THAN SHE KNOWS HERSELF.
I TRY AND *WATCH OUT* FOR HER, AND BOSS HER AROUND AND STEER HER WHEN SHE GOES WRONG.
I WON'T LET HER *DOWN*, SAM... NO MATTER WHAT...
WHY DO *BAD THINGS* KEEP HAPPENING TO WONDERFUL *SELF-FRIENDS?*
SELFFRIEND*NEWMUTANTS* ARE TRAPPED HERE... AND SELF CANNOT GET YOU FREE...
...AND SELF DOESN'T WANT MORE DEARFRIENDS TO *DIE*... LIKE DOUG... OR GO *AWAY*... OR BE *MONSTERS*...

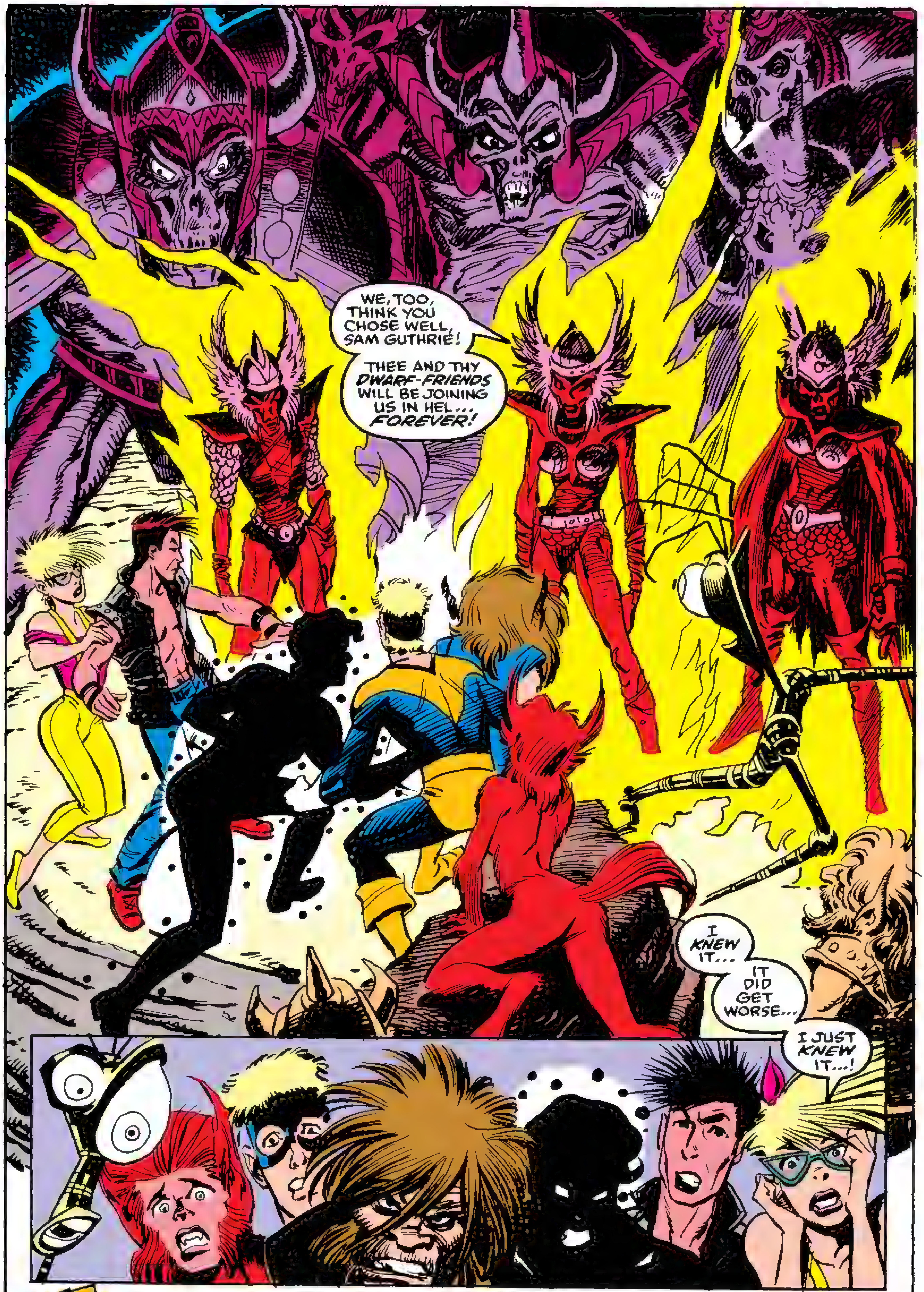

DON'T WORRY, WARLOCK. SAM HAS A WONDERFUL *PLAN* AND SOON WE'LL BE FREE AND WITH FRIENDS.
SUCH FAITH.
WE TEND TA SEE RAHNE AS BEIN' *WEAK* 'CAUSE SHE'S THE *LITTLEST* AN' THE MOST *EMOTIONAL*.
BUT IT WAS THOSE VERY QUALITIES THAT GOT THROUGH TA ILLYANA AN' SAVED US ALL DURING INFERNO.
RAHNE'S SPECIAL. SHE'LL BE *STRONG* LONG AS THERE'S SOMEBODY 'ROUND WHO *NEEDS* HER TA BE.
SHE'S REALLY THE *HEART* OF THIS GROUP.
CHEER UP, 'LOCK. IT ISN'T THAT BAD, TRULY!
YOU, TOO, DACOSTA. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A MOPING *FOOL!*
THEY'LL OPEN THIS CAGE EVENTUALLY AND *THEN* YOU CAN *CLOBBER* THEM.
RAHNE'S RIGHT, 'LOCK. YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY. YOU SAW HOW EASILY I SMASHED THEIR *CHAINS*, RIGHT?
WELL, *THIS* IS WHAT I THINK OF THEIR PALTRY EFFORTS TO *KEEP* US HERE...
YIKES!
GUESS EVEN I CAN'T JUGGLE AND DANCE AT THE SAME TIME...
SELF CAN. JUGGLING WAS *GAME* ON SELF'S PLANET.
THINK YOU STILL *CAN?*
THEN *HERE,* 'LOCK, SHOW US HOW IT'S *DONE.*


SEE, SELF *CAN* JUGGLE...
AWESOME! CAN YOU HANDLE *MORE* STUFF?
WHAT IF I TOSS AN *ARMBAND* INTO THE MIX?
MIX GETS MORE *FUN!*
HOW 'BOUT *THIS?*
IS NOT A *PROBLEM!*
LOOK! IS LIKE SELFRIENDS *NEW MUTANTS...* ALL WHIRLING AROUND *TOGETHER!*
AH, BUT CAN YOU JUGGLE...
...*THIS!* 3...2...
BOOM-BOOM! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR *MIND?*
BUT SELF MUST *PROTECT--*
A TIME BOMB!
GET *RID* OF IT, 'LOCK!


FSSSST!
IT FIZZLED!
SURE IT FIZZLED! I MADE A DUD! A SPARKLER!
I WANTED TO PLAY, TOO, SAM.
I THOUGHT YOU, FOR ALL PEOPLE, WOULD UNDERSTAND!
BOOM-BOOM--LOOK... I DIDN'T MEAN--
BLAM!
WHO--?
SAM GUTHRIE... SON OF MY HEART! WHY ART THOU IN JAIL?
EITRI!
GUESS YOUR DUDES DIDN'T WANNA LET A GOOD THING LIKE US MUTIES GET AWAY!
RAHNE, WARLOCK, AND BOBBY, YOU'VE MET!
RICTOR AND BOOM-BOOM--THIS IS MY FRIEND EITRI, WEAPONS-SMITH EXTRAORDINAIRE LEADER OF THE DWARVES.

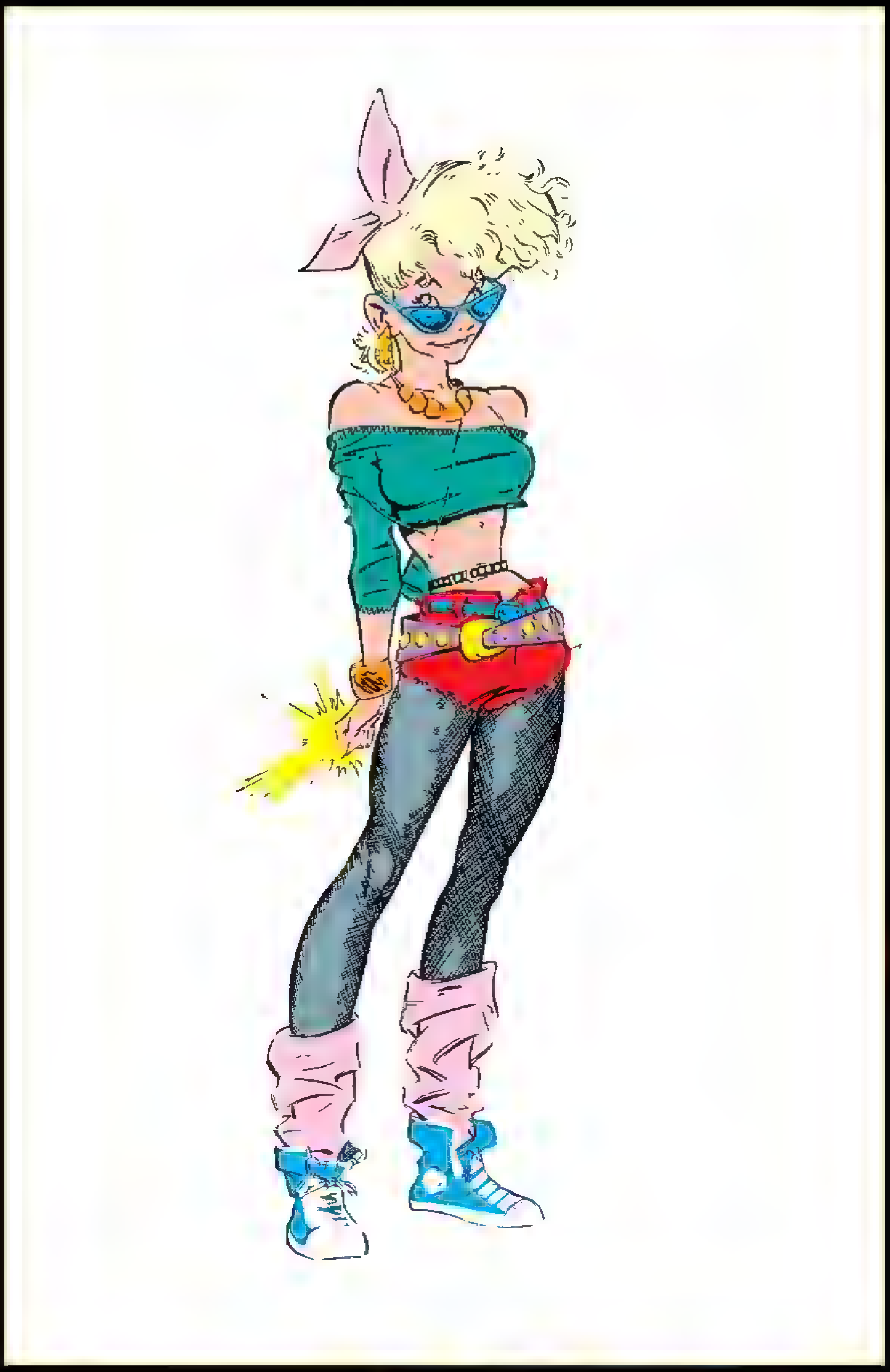

IN THE VAST CAVERNS BENEATH THE VALKYRIE'S STRONGHOLD, THE DWARF-ARMY PAUSES TO REFUEL AND WELCOME OLD FRIENDS...
WE WERE LUCKY THAT WHEN I TOSSED THAT ROCK...
...IT BROKE THROUGH ON TOP OF YOUR RAIDING PARTY.
I WAS DISGUSTED WHEN SAM CALLED OFF THE FIGHT, EITRI, BUT HE WAS RIGHT!
WE'RE A LOT BETTER OFF NOW THAN WE WERE BEFORE.
SURE ARE. GOOD GRUB, EITRI.
IF YOU LIKE PICKLED HERRING...
BOOM-BOOM'S STILL GRUMPY. PARTLY MY FAULT. AH WAS WRONG TO JUMP ON HER 'BOUT THAT TIME BOMB.
AH WAS EDGY AN' AH WASN'T THINKIN' CLEAR. SHE WOULDN'T HURT US. AFTER DINNER, AH'LL APOLOGIZE.
'TWASN'T LUCK, MY LAD, BUT THE FATES WHO LED THEE HERE.
THESE CAVERNS WERE ONCE NATURAL, BUT WERE CONVERTED, BEFORE LIVING MEMORY TO DUNGEONS AND WAREHOUSES... THUS THE CELL MY MEN LOCKED YOU IN.
THE VALKYRIES HAVE FORGOTTEN THE CAVERNS' EXISTENCE, BUT THE EARTH-MEMORY OF THE DWARVES IS STRONG.
EITRI, PLEASE... WHEN WE WERE HERE BEFORE, I MET A WOLF-PRINCE...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HIM?
WOLF-PRINCE, LASS? WHAT WOULD HE LOOK LIKE?

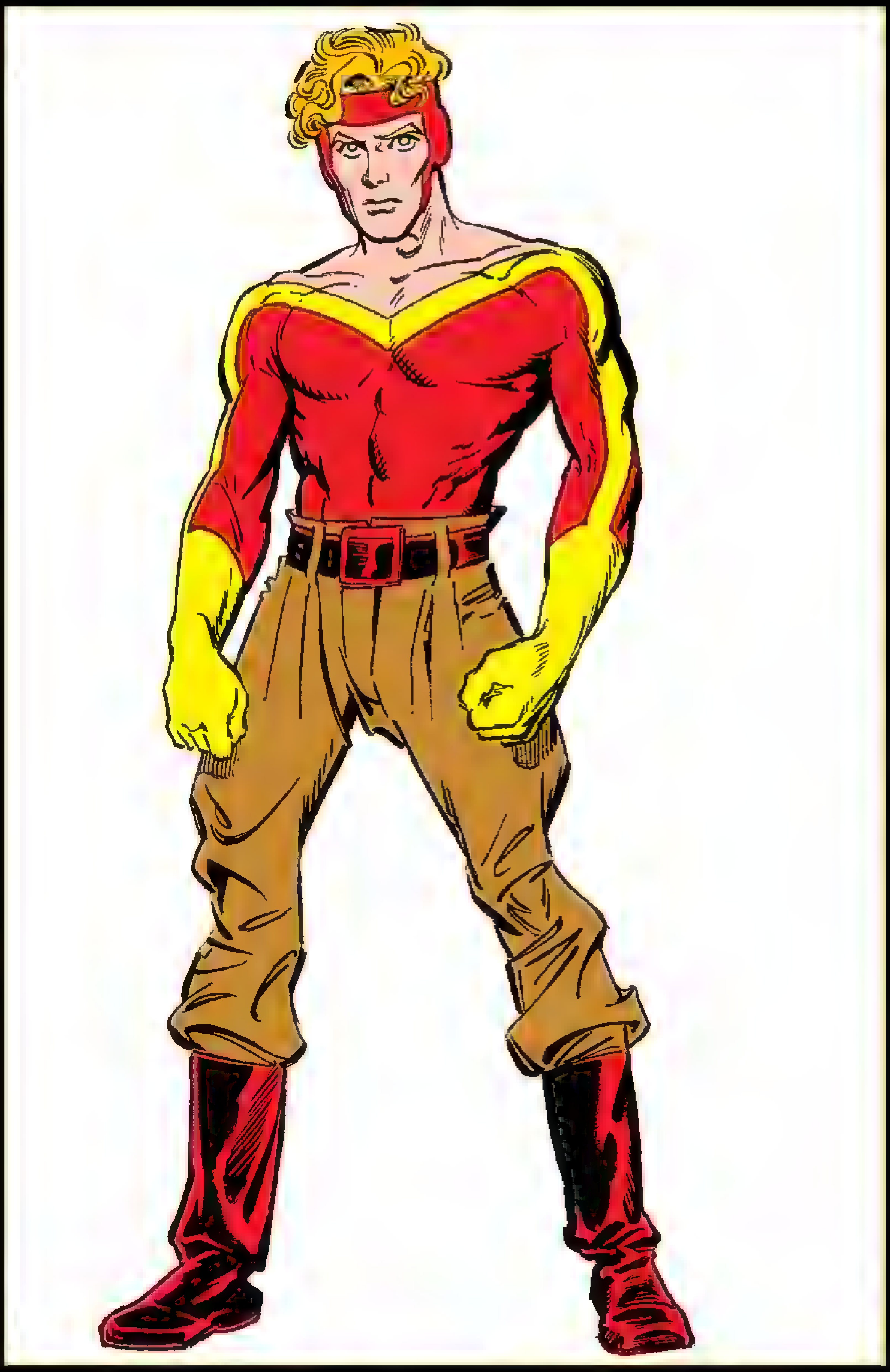

LIKE *THIS*... ONLY HE'S *SILVER*... AND A *BOY*, OF COURSE... AND *VERY* HANDSOME...
WOLF-PRINCE?! OBOY! WHAT NEXT...?
NO, CHILD. WE'VE BEEN TOO BUSY OF LATE TO NOTICE THE PASSING OF CHANGELING PRINCES. FOR THE *VALKYRIES* USED ONLY TO TAKE THE SOULS OF *SLAIN WARRIORS*, BUT NOW THEY'VE CHANGED. AND *HORRIBLY*.
THEY'VE NOW BEGUN TO RAID THE *LIVING*. THEY HATH STOLEN SEVERAL OF OUR BEST *WEAPON-SMITHS*...
BUT... THAT'S AGAINST THE *RULES* ...ISN'T IT?
THAT IT IS, LAD. OH, WE'VE SENT COMPLAINTS TO *LORD ODIN*, BUT WHETHER THEY'VE REACHED HIM OR NOT... WE CANNOT TELL.
WITH THIS ACCURSED *NEGATIVE SKY* AND THE ATTACK OF THE DEMON *ANNIHILUS*, THE ALL-FATHER HAS HAD MUCH ON HIS MIND...
...SO WE *DWARFS* MUST TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR *OWN* HANDS.
WE SHALL *INFILTRATE* THE VALKYRIES' CASTLE AND WIN BACK OUR *FORGERS!*
A PITY THY *TEAMMATE* HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO THE CURSE... BUT IT IS GOOD TO HAVE YOU IN OUR RANKS.
YOU CHOSE WELL, SON OF MY HEART, WHEN YOU MADE BOLD TO *JOIN* US.
THAT MEANS *MORE* FIGHTING... *GROSS*... AND BESIDE THESE LITTLE... *MONSTER DWARFS!*
MY ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT THINGS *CAN'T* GET ANY *WORSE!*
SAM! LOOK! *NO!* IT CAN'T *BE*--!

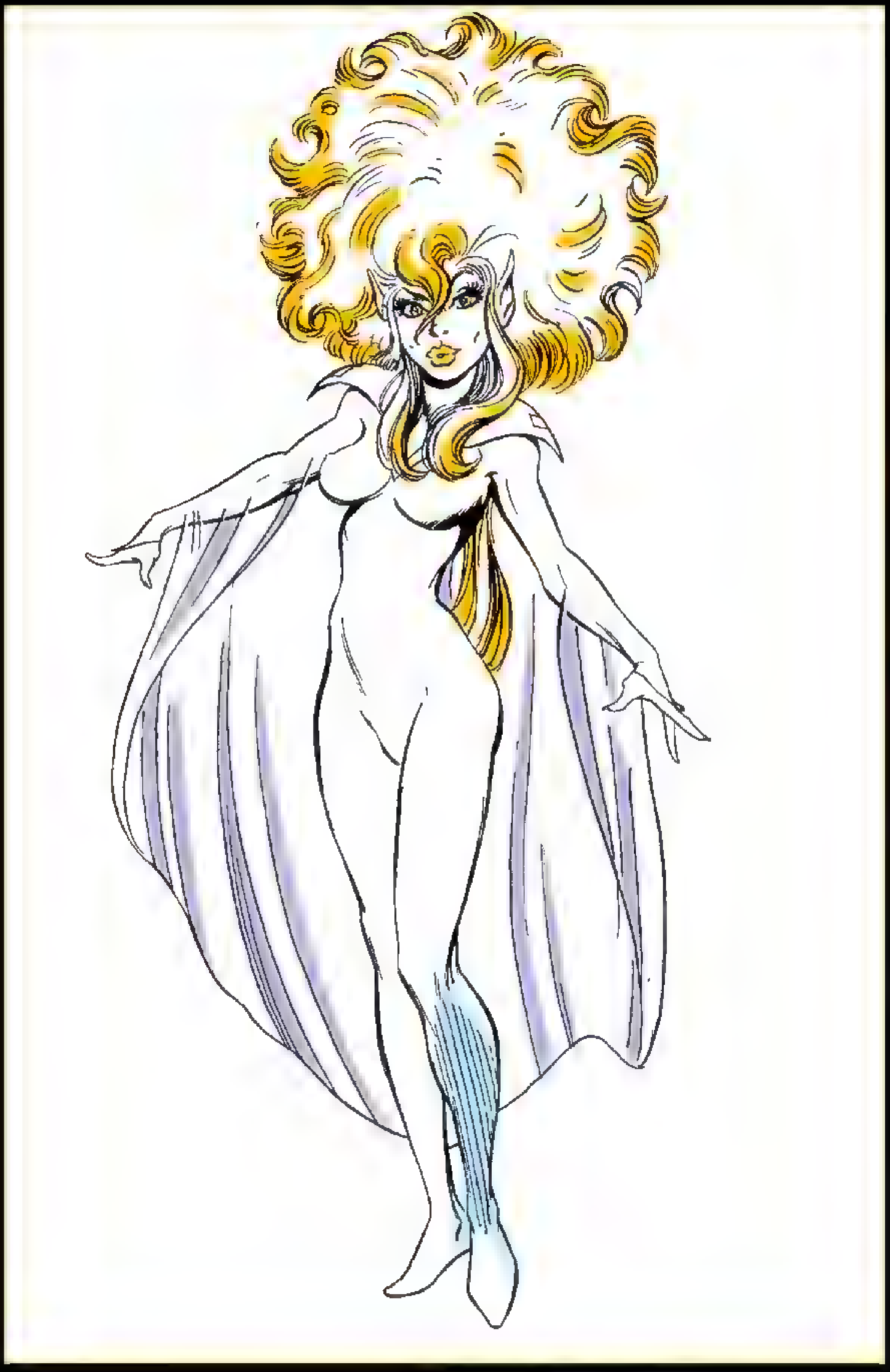

WE, TOO, THINK YOU CHOSE WELL, SAM GUTHRIE!
THEE AND THY *DWARF-FRIENDS* WILL BE JOINING US IN HEL... *FOREVER!*
I *KNEW* IT...
IT DID GET WORSE...
I JUST *KNEW* IT...!

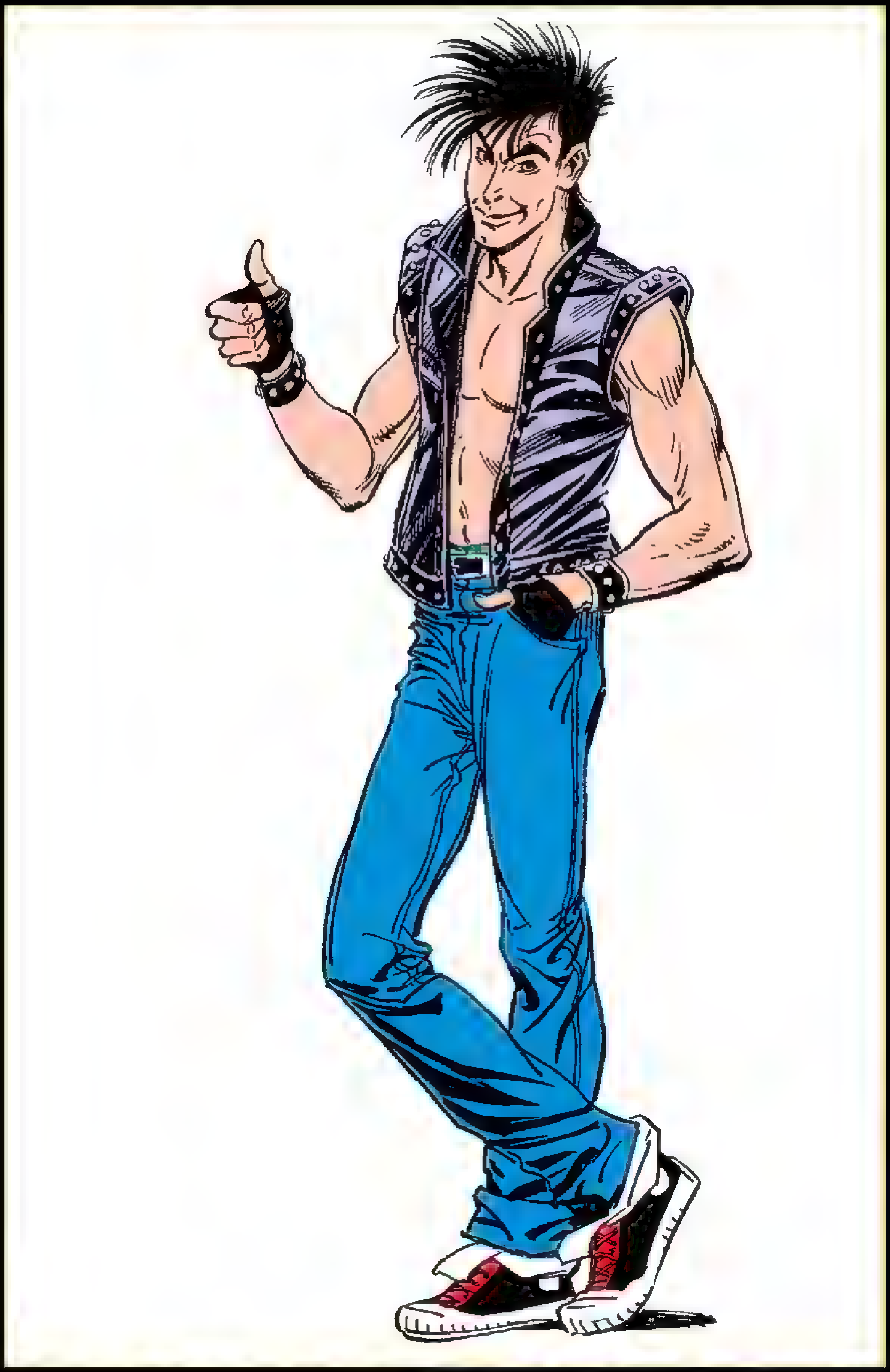
NEXT: HELA, VALKYRIES, DEMON HORDES, DWARFS, RUSTY, SKIDS, FREEDOM FORCE AND A WOLF-PRINCE IN A NIGHTMARE ISSUE WE COULD ONLY CALL--

CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES!









OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE: UPDATE '89
PROFILE ART BY JON BOGDANOVE, BRET BLEVINS, JOSEF RUBINSTEIN & ANDY YANCHUS

MARVEL®
THE NEW MUTANTS®
TM
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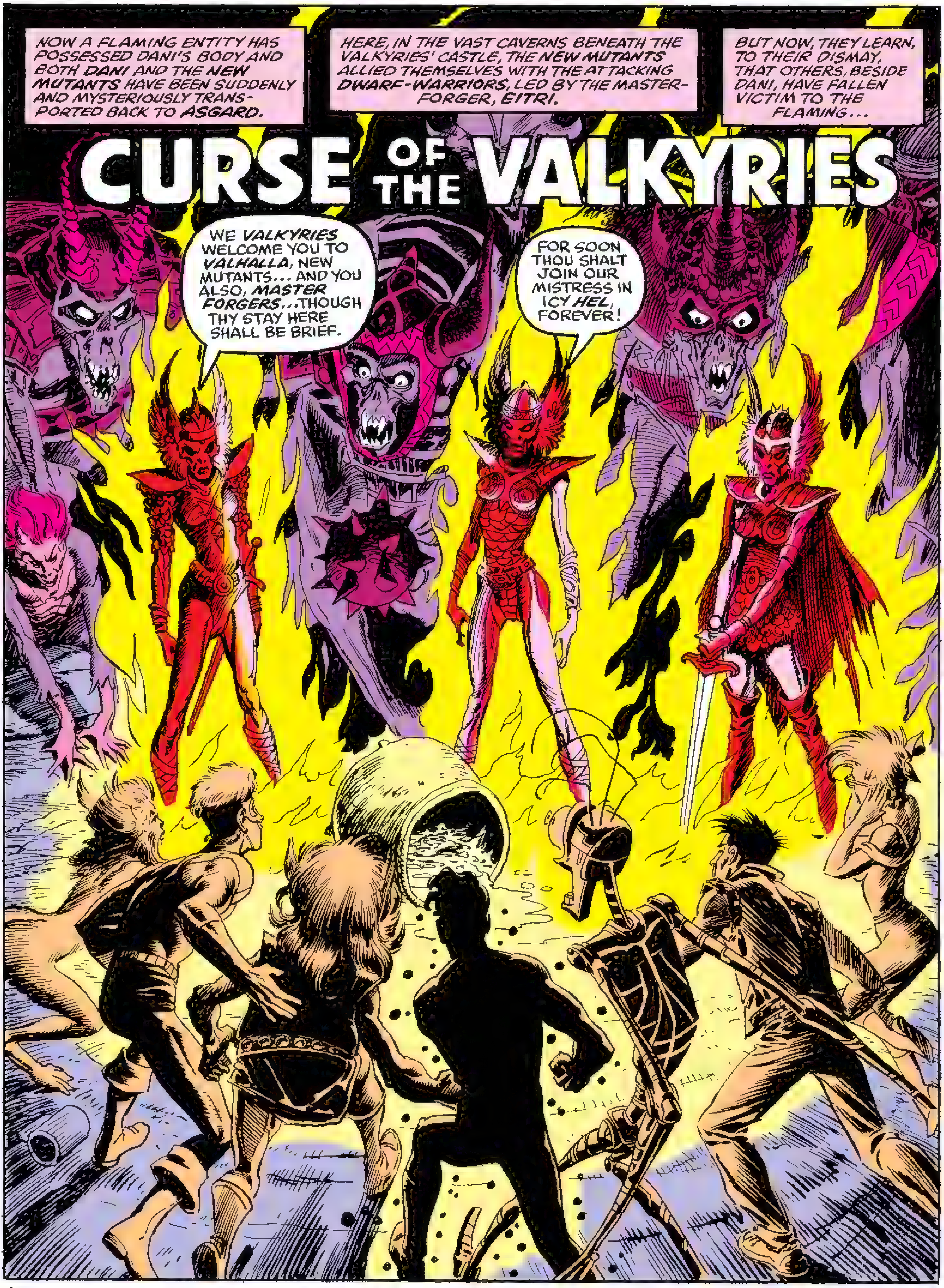
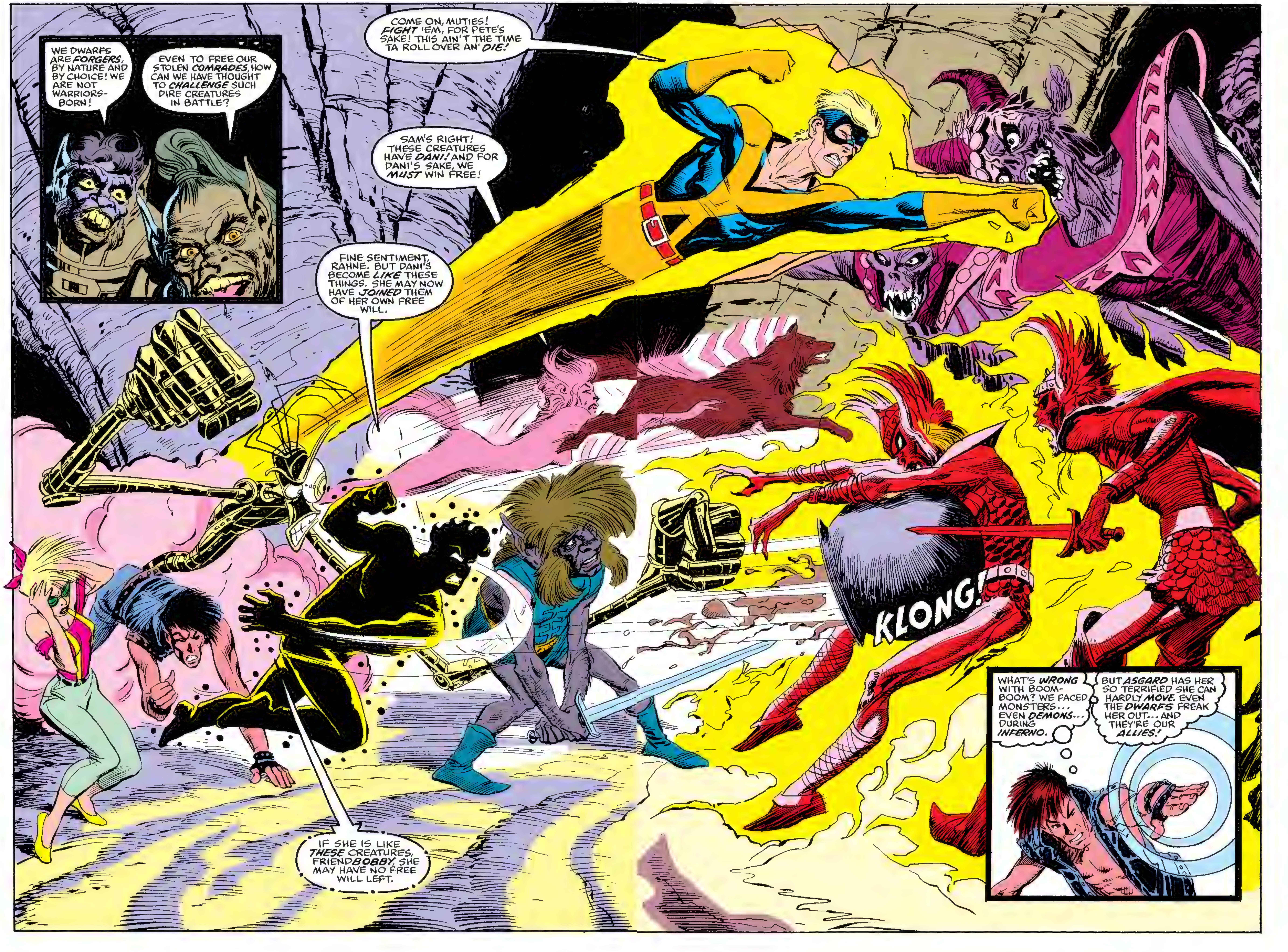
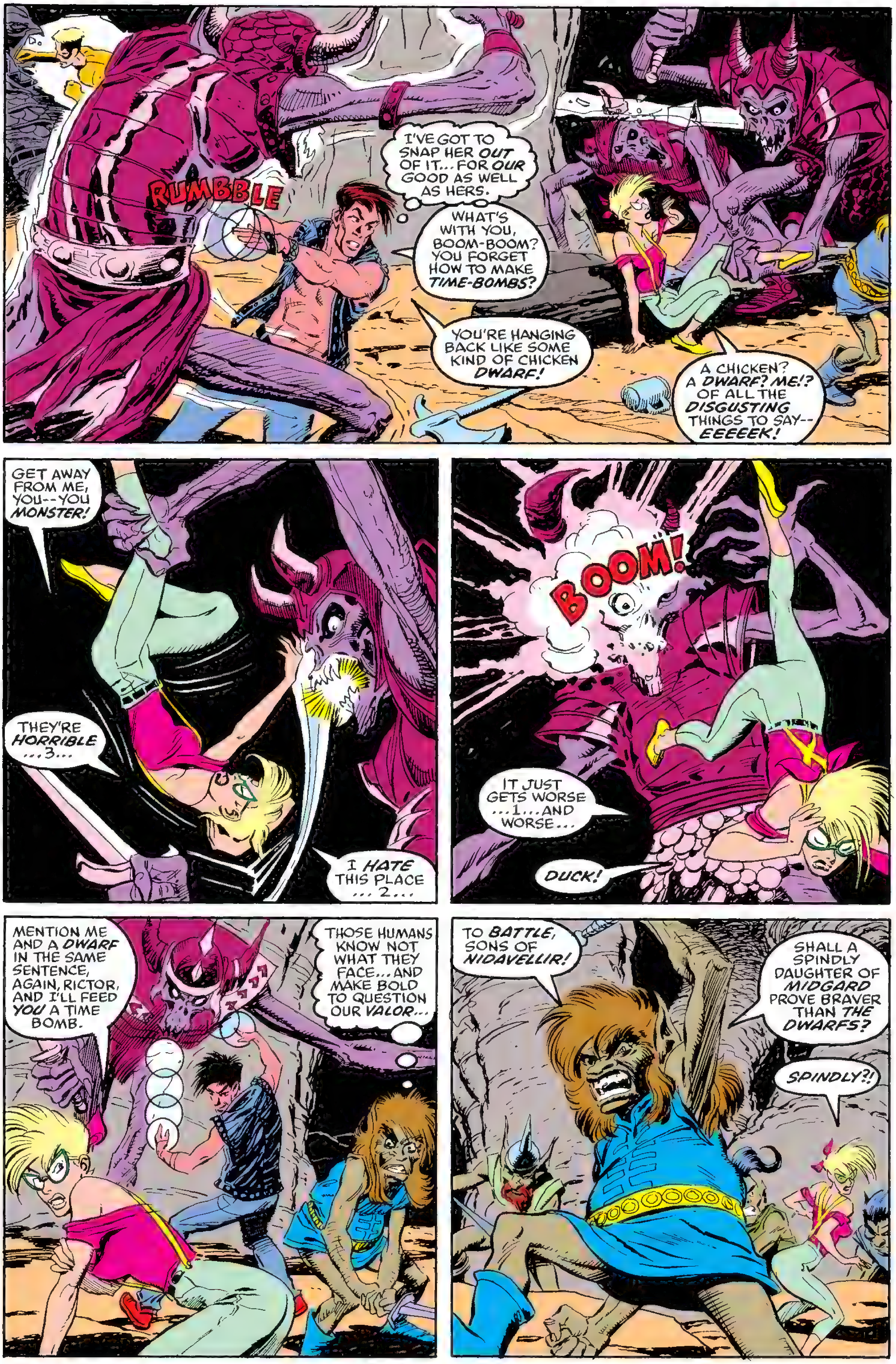
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
...AGAINST THE DEATH HORDES OF VALHALLA!™

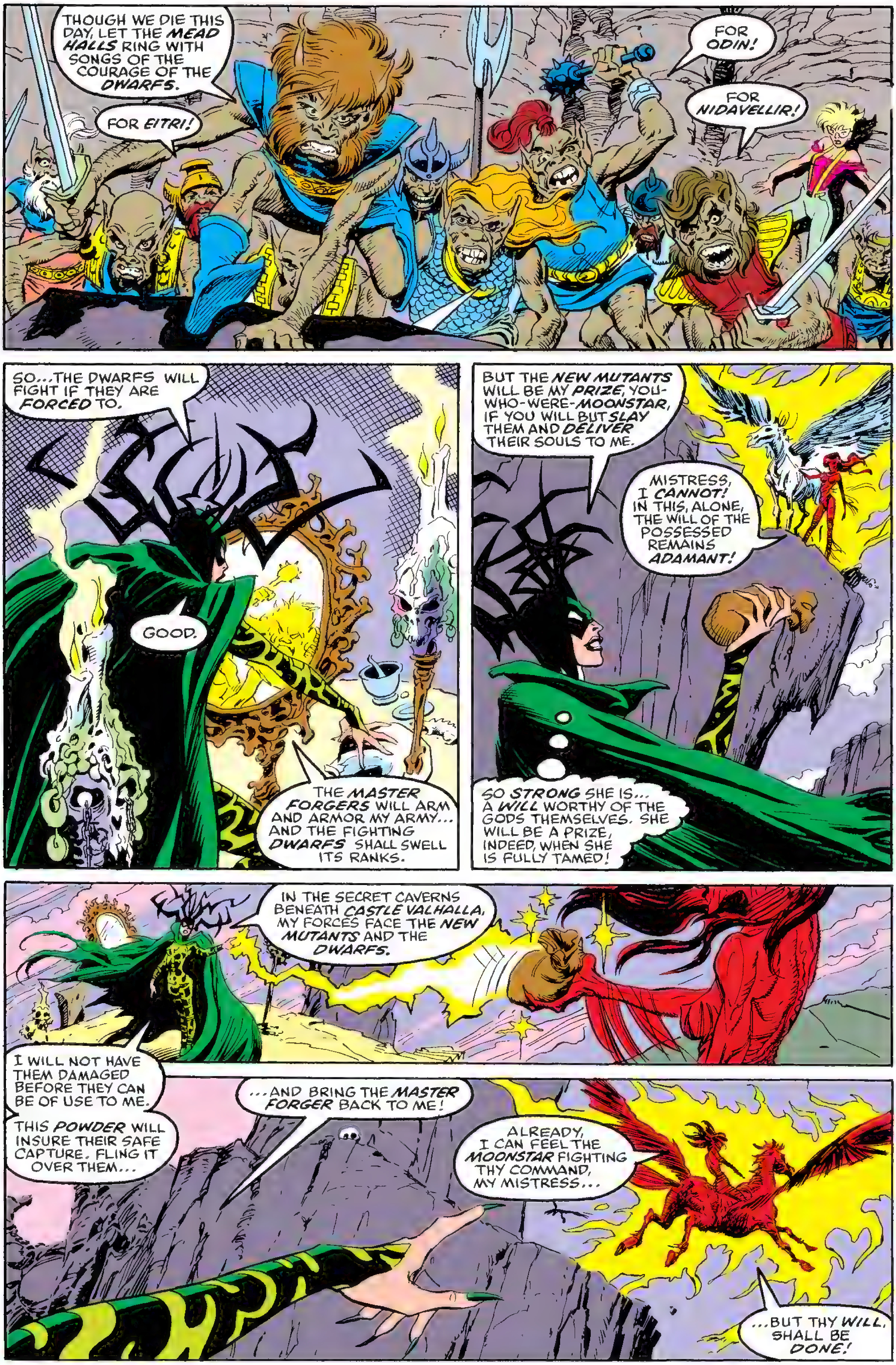
MONTHS AGO, DURING A VISIT TO **ASGARD**, THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE **NORSE GODS**, ONE OF THE NEW MUTANTS, **DANIELLE MOONSTAR**, WAS CHOSEN TO JOIN THE **VALKYRIES** AND BECOME ONE OF ALL-FATHER ODIN'S **CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN.**

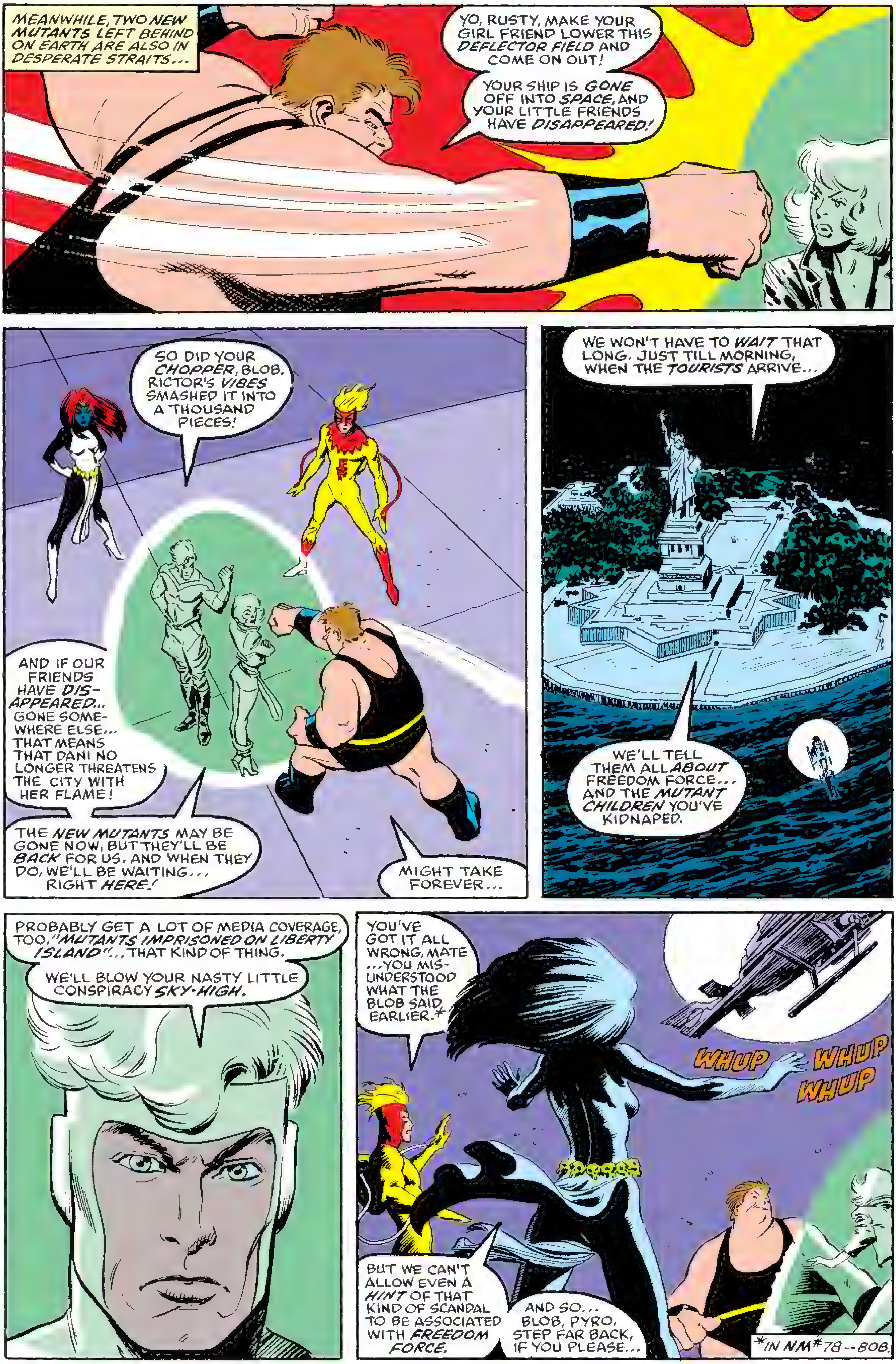

NOW A FLAMING ENTITY HAS POSSESSED DANI'S BODY AND BOTH DANI AND THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSPORTED BACK TO ASGARD.
HERE, IN THE VAST CAVERNS BENEATH THE VALKYRIES' CASTLE, THE NEW MUTANTS ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH THE ATTACKING DWARF-WARRIORS, LED BY THE MASTER-FORGER, EITRI.
BUT NOW, THEY LEARN, TO THEIR DISMAY, THAT OTHERS, BESIDE DANI, HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE FLAMING...
CURSE OF THE VALKYRIES
WE VALKYRIES WELCOME YOU TO VALHALLA, NEW MUTANTS... AND YOU ALSO, MASTER FORGERS... THOUGH THY STAY HERE SHALL BE BRIEF.
FOR SOON THOU SHALT JOIN OUR MISTRESS IN ICY HEL, FOREVER!

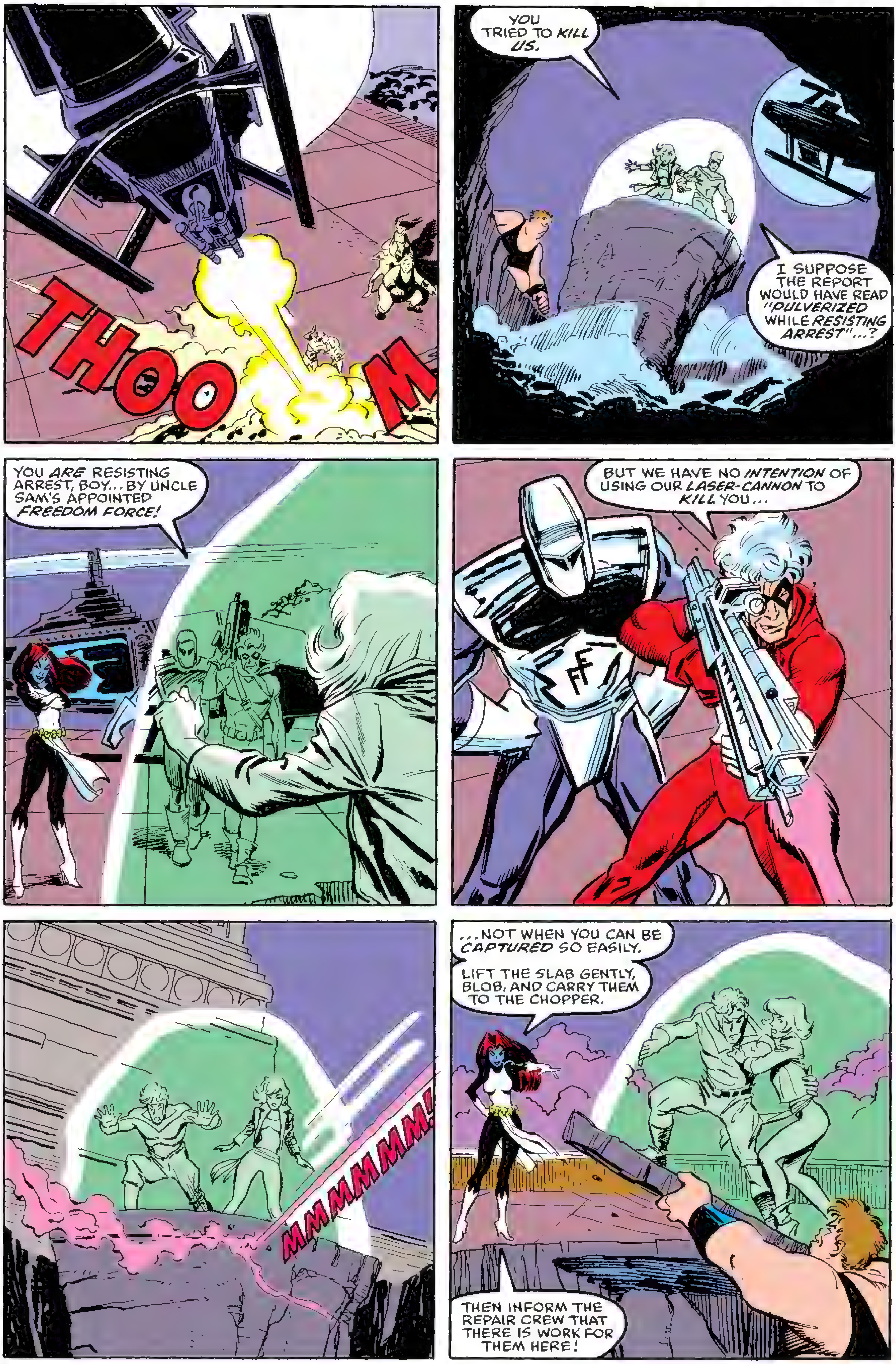
STAN LEE PRESENTS: LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER BRET BLEVINS PENCILER AL WILLIAMSON INKER JOE ROSEN LETTERER GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST BOB HARRAS EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

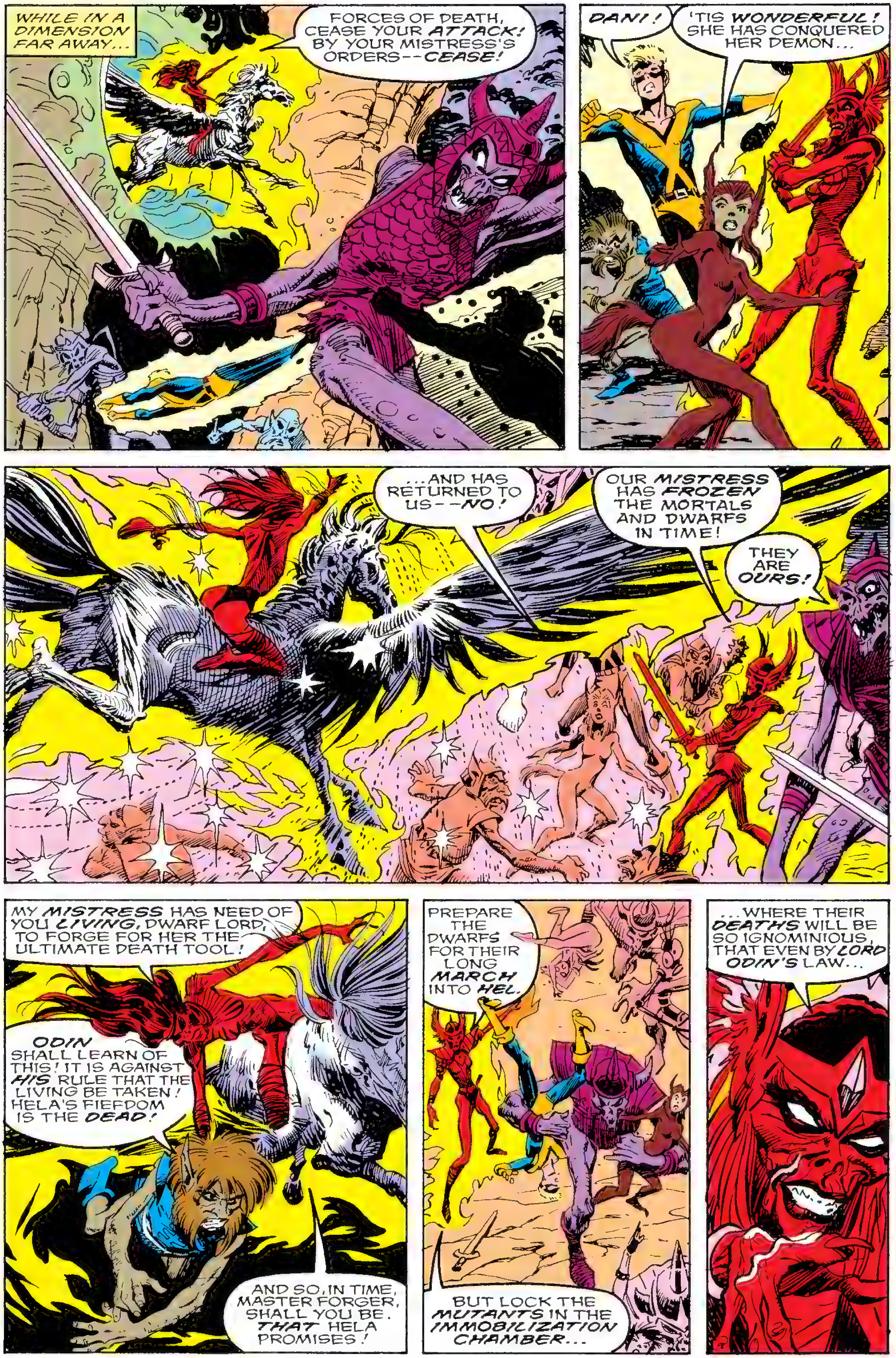

WE DWARFS ARE *FORGERS*, BY NATURE AND BY CHOICE! WE ARE NOT WARRIORS-BORN!
EVEN TO FREE OUR STOLEN *COMRADES*, HOW CAN WE HAVE THOUGHT TO *CHALLENGE* SUCH DIRE CREATURES IN BATTLE?
COME ON, MUTIES! *FIGHT* 'EM, FOR PETE'S SAKE! THIS AIN'T THE TIME TA ROLL OVER AN' *DIE!*
SAM'S RIGHT! THESE CREATURES HAVE *DANI!* AND FOR DANI'S SAKE, WE *MUST* WIN FREE!
FINE SENTIMENT, RAHNE. BUT DANI'S BECOME *LIKE* THESE THINGS. SHE MAY NOW HAVE *JOINED* THEM OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
IF SHE IS LIKE *THESE* CREATURES, FRIEND *BOBBY*, SHE MAY HAVE NO FREE WILL LEFT.
KLONG!
WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH BOOM-BOOM? WE FACED MONSTERS... EVEN *DEMONS*... DURING *INFERNO*.
BUT *ASGARD* HAS HER SO TERRIFIED SHE CAN HARDLY *MOVE*. EVEN THE *DWARFS* FREAK HER OUT... AND THEY'RE OUR *ALLIES!*

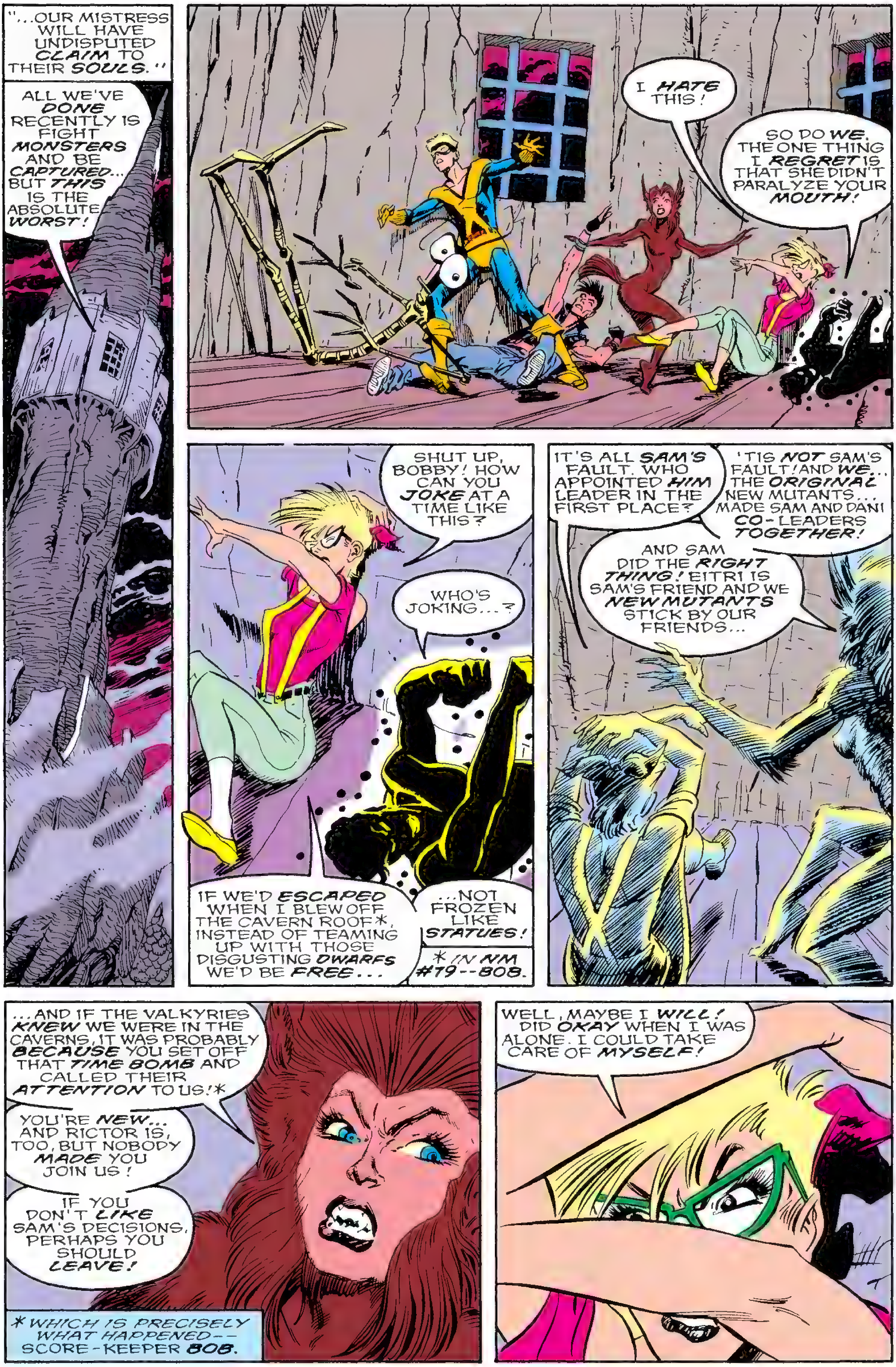

I'VE GOT TO SNAP HER *OUT* OF IT... FOR *OUR* GOOD AS WELL AS HERS.
RUMBBLE
WHAT'S WITH YOU, BOOM-BOOM? YOU FORGET HOW TO MAKE *TIME-BOMBS?*
YOU'RE HANGING BACK LIKE SOME KIND OF CHICKEN *DWARF!*
A CHICKEN? A *DWARF? ME!?* OF ALL THE *DISGUSTING* THINGS TO SAY-- *EEEEEK!*
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU--YOU *MONSTER!*
THEY'RE *HORRIBLE* ...3...
I *HATE* THIS PLACE ... 2...
BOOM!
IT JUST GETS WORSE ...1...AND WORSE...
DUCK!
MENTION ME AND A *DWARF* IN THE SAME SENTENCE, AGAIN, RICTOR, AND I'LL FEED *YOU* A TIME BOMB.
THOSE HUMANS KNOW NOT WHAT THEY FACE... AND MAKE BOLD TO QUESTION OUR *VALOR*...
TO *BATTLE,* SONS OF *NIDAVELLIR!*
SHALL A SPINDLY DAUGHTER OF *MIDGARD* PROVE BRAVER THAN *THE DWARFS?*
SPINDLY?!

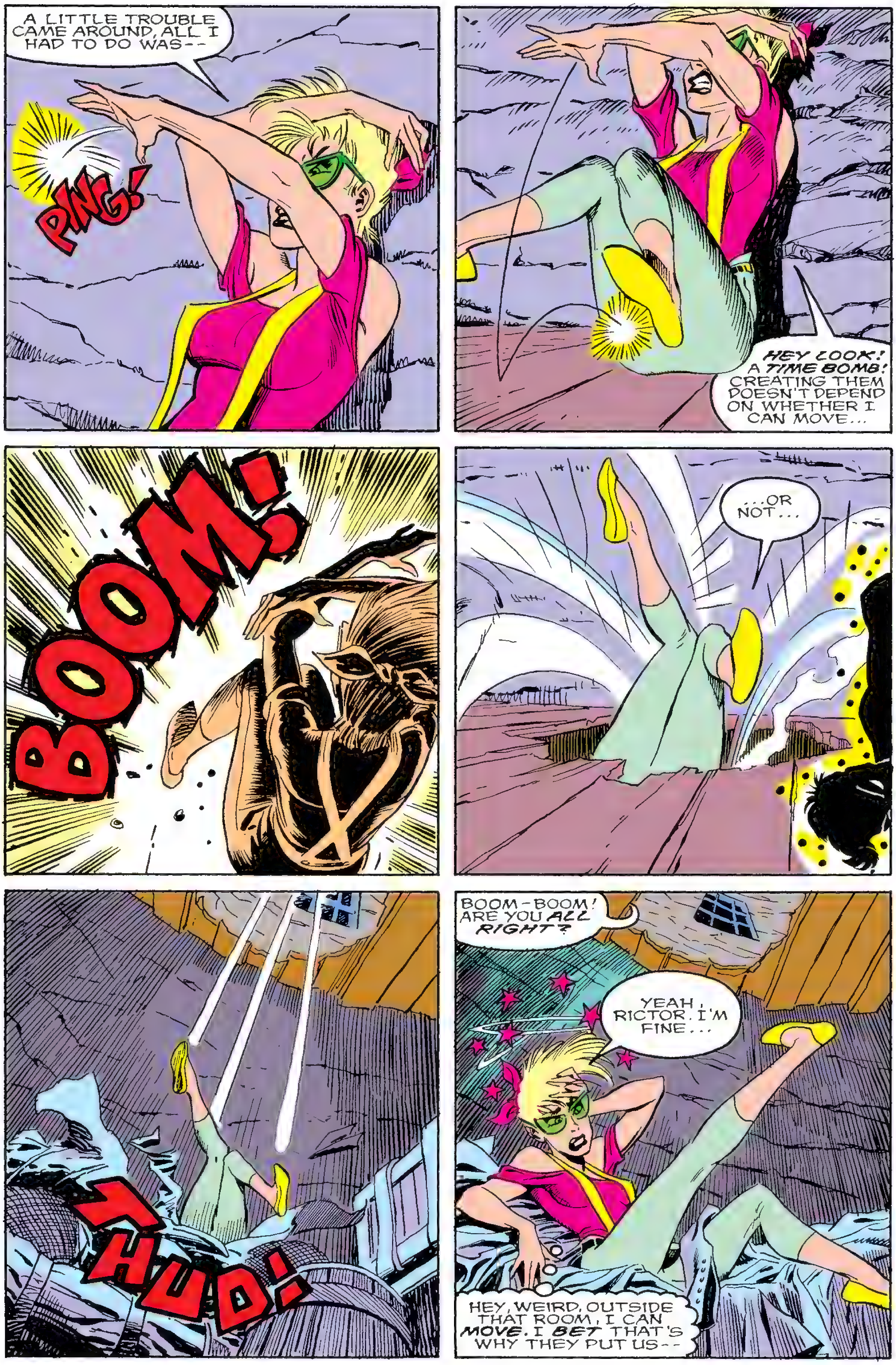

THOUGH WE DIE THIS DAY, LET THE MEAD HALLS RING WITH SONGS OF THE COURAGE OF THE DWARFS.
FOR EITRI!
FOR ODIN!
FOR NIDAVELLIR!
SO...THE DWARFS WILL FIGHT IF THEY ARE FORCED TO.
GOOD.
THE MASTER FORGERS WILL ARM AND ARMOR MY ARMY... AND THE FIGHTING DWARFS SHALL SWELL ITS RANKS.
BUT THE NEW MUTANTS WILL BE MY PRIZE, YOU-WHO-WERE-MOONSTAR, IF YOU WILL BUT SLAY THEM AND DELIVER THEIR SOULS TO ME.
MISTRESS, I CANNOT! IN THIS, ALONE, THE WILL OF THE POSSESSED REMAINS ADAMANT!
SO STRONG SHE IS... A WILL WORTHY OF THE GODS THEMSELVES. SHE WILL BE A PRIZE, INDEED, WHEN SHE IS FULLY TAMED!
IN THE SECRET CAVERNS BENEATH CASTLE VALHALLA, MY FORCES FACE THE NEW MUTANTS AND THE DWARFS.
I WILL NOT HAVE THEM DAMAGED BEFORE THEY CAN BE OF USE TO ME.
THIS POWDER WILL INSURE THEIR SAFE CAPTURE. FLING IT OVER THEM...
...AND BRING THE MASTER FORGER BACK TO ME!
ALREADY, I CAN FEEL THE MOONSTAR FIGHTING THY COMMAND, MY MISTRESS...
...BUT THY WILL SHALL BE DONE!

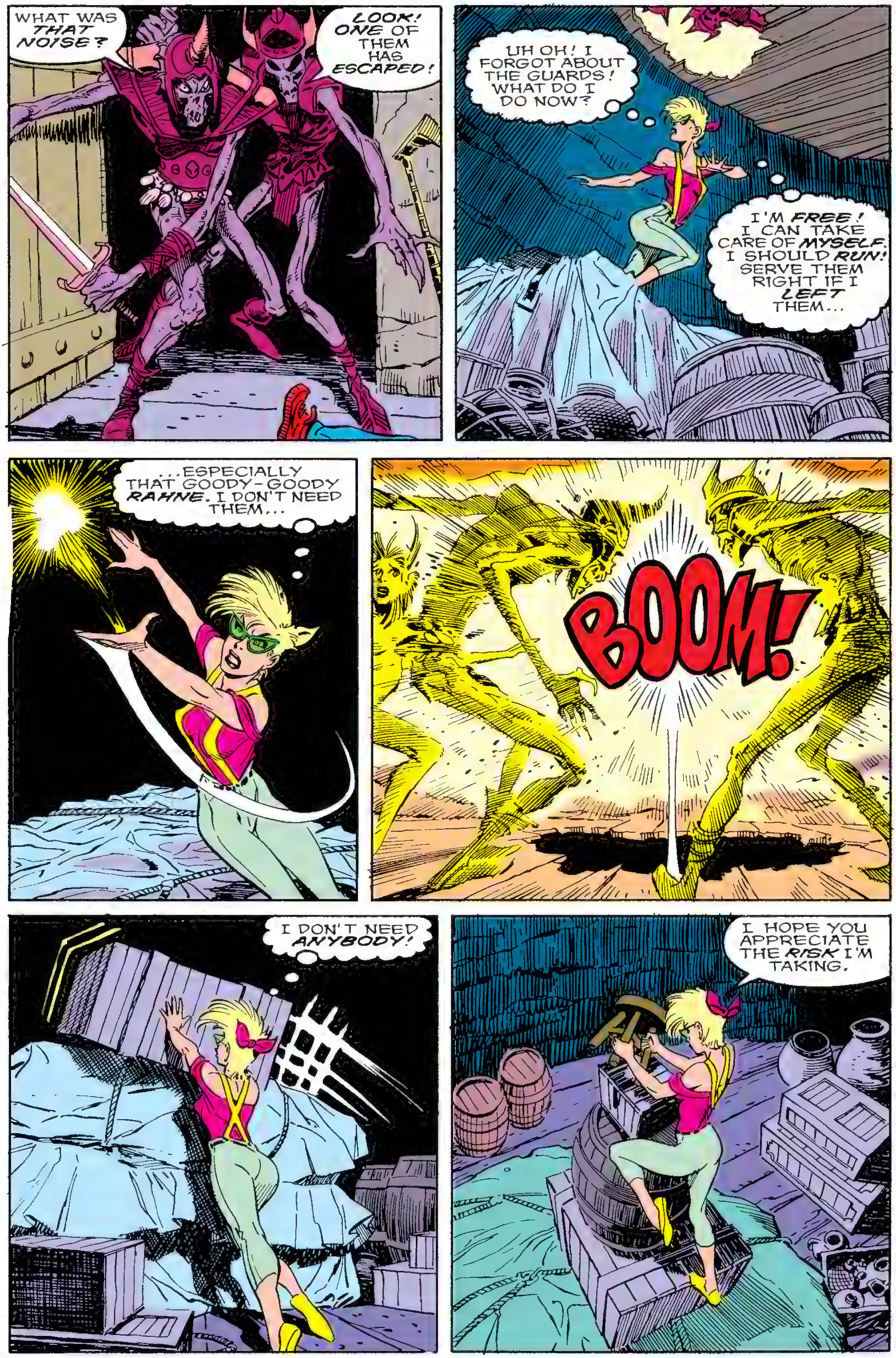

MEANWHILE, TWO NEW MUTANTS LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH ARE ALSO IN DESPERATE STRAITS...
YO, RUSTY, MAKE YOUR GIRL FRIEND LOWER THIS DEFLECTOR FIELD AND COME ON OUT!
YOUR SHIP IS GONE OFF INTO SPACE, AND YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS HAVE DISAPPEARED!
SO DID YOUR CHOPPER, BLOB. RICTOR'S VIBES SMASHED IT INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!
AND IF OUR FRIENDS HAVE DISAPPEARED... GONE SOMEWHERE ELSE... THAT MEANS THAT DANI NO LONGER THREATENS THE CITY WITH HER FLAME!
THE NEW MUTANTS MAY BE GONE NOW, BUT THEY'LL BE BACK FOR US. AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL BE WAITING... RIGHT HERE!
MIGHT TAKE FOREVER...
WE WON'T HAVE TO WAIT THAT LONG. JUST TILL MORNING, WHEN THE TOURISTS ARRIVE...
WE'LL TELL THEM ALL ABOUT FREEDOM FORCE... AND THE MUTANT CHILDREN YOU'VE KIDNAPED.
PROBABLY GET A LOT OF MEDIA COVERAGE, TOO, "MUTANTS IMPRISONED ON LIBERTY ISLAND"... THAT KIND OF THING.
WE'LL BLOW YOUR NASTY LITTLE CONSPIRACY SKY-HIGH.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, MATE ...YOU MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT THE BLOB SAID EARLIER.*
WHUP WHUP WHUP
BUT WE CAN'T ALLOW EVEN A HINT OF THAT KIND OF SCANDAL TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH FREEDOM FORCE.
AND SO... BLOB, PYRO, STEP FAR BACK, IF YOU PLEASE...
*IN NM#78 --BOB.

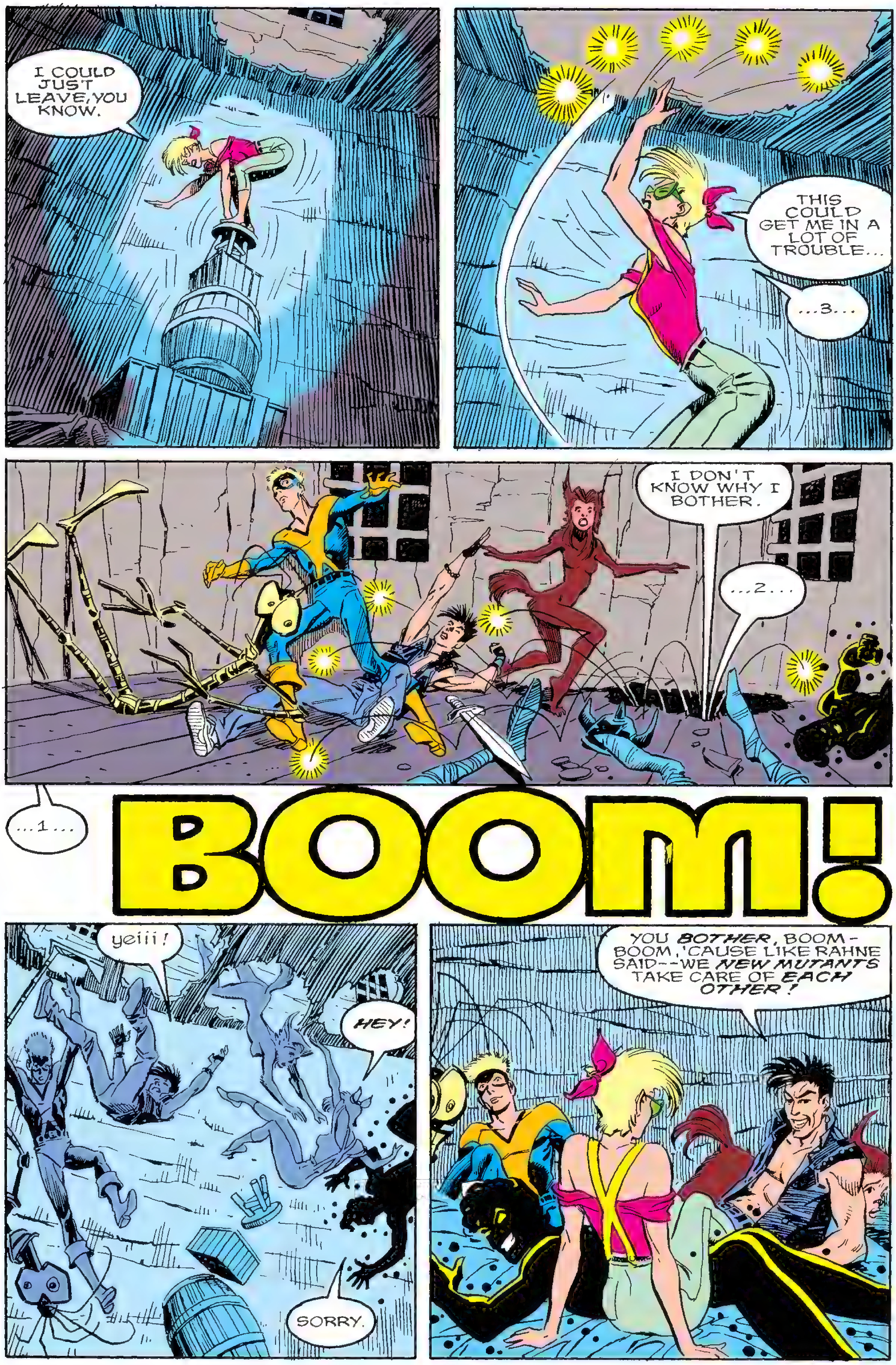

THOOM
YOU TRIED TO *KILL* *US.*
I SUPPOSE THE REPORT WOULD HAVE READ "*PULVERIZED* WHILE *RESISTING ARREST*"...?
YOU *ARE* RESISTING ARREST, BOY... BY UNCLE SAM'S APPOINTED *FREEDOM FORCE!*
BUT WE HAVE NO *INTENTION* OF USING OUR *LASER-CANNON* TO *KILL* YOU...
MMMMMM!
...NOT WHEN YOU CAN BE *CAPTURED* SO EASILY.
LIFT THE SLAB GENTLY, BLOB, AND CARRY THEM TO THE CHOPPER.
THEN INFORM THE REPAIR CREW THAT THERE IS WORK FOR THEM HERE!

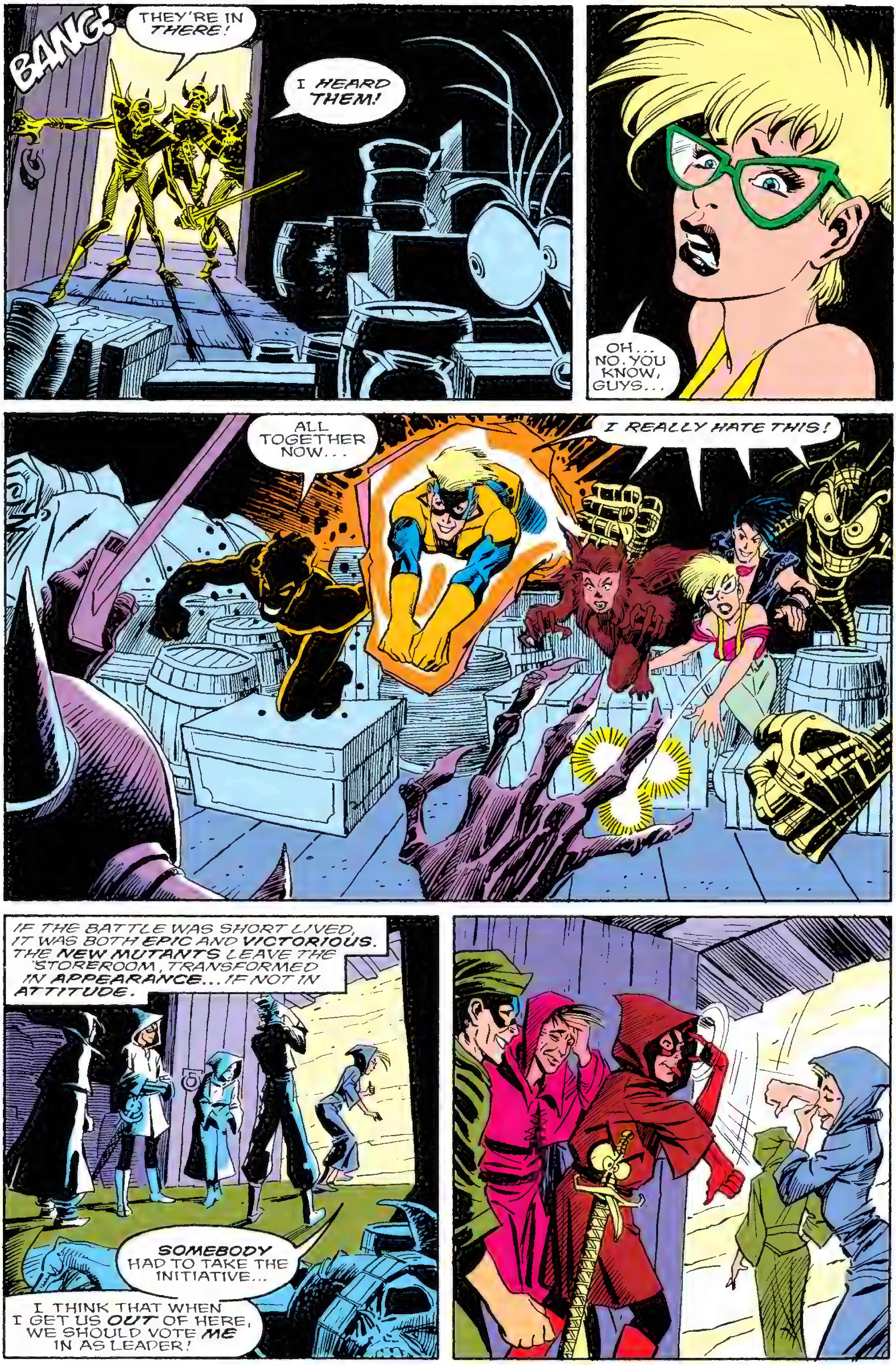

WHILE IN A DIMENSION FAR AWAY...
FORCES OF DEATH, CEASE YOUR *ATTACK!* BY YOUR MISTRESS'S ORDERS--*CEASE!*
DANI!
'TIS *WONDERFUL!* SHE HAS CONQUERED HER DEMON...
...AND HAS RETURNED TO US--*NO!*
OUR *MISTRESS* HAS *FROZEN* THE MORTALS AND DWARFS IN TIME!
THEY ARE *OURS!*
MY *MISTRESS* HAS NEED OF YOU *LIVING*, DWARF LORD, TO FORGE FOR HER THE ULTIMATE DEATH TOOL!
ODIN SHALL LEARN OF THIS! IT IS AGAINST *HIS* RULE THAT THE LIVING BE TAKEN! HELA'S FIEFDOM IS THE *DEAD!*
AND SO, IN TIME, MASTER FORGER, SHALL YOU BE. *THAT* HELA PROMISES!
PREPARE THE DWARFS FOR THEIR LONG *MARCH* INTO *HEL*.
BUT LOCK THE *MUTANTS* IN THE *IMMOBILIZATION CHAMBER*...
...WHERE THEIR *DEATHS* WILL BE SO IGNOMINIOUS, THAT EVEN BY *LORD ODIN'S* LAW...

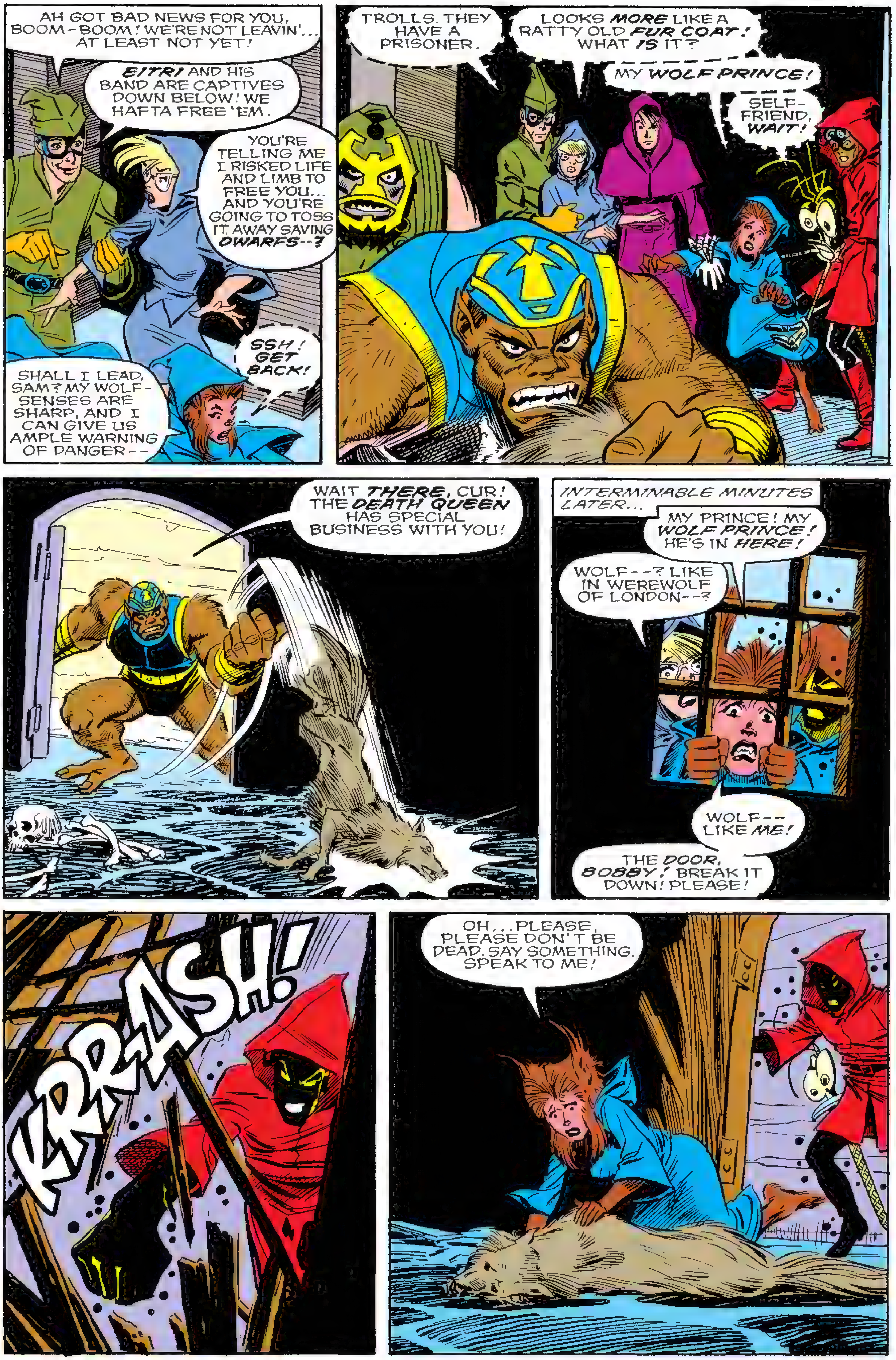

"...OUR MISTRESS WILL HAVE UNDISPUTED *CLAIM* TO THEIR *SOULS*."
ALL WE'VE *DONE* RECENTLY IS FIGHT *MONSTERS* AND BE *CAPTURED*... BUT *THIS* IS THE ABSOLUTE *WORST!*
I *HATE* THIS!
SO DO *WE*. THE ONE THING I *REGRET* IS THAT SHE DIDN'T PARALYZE YOUR *MOUTH!*
SHUT UP, BOBBY! HOW CAN YOU *JOKE* AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHO'S JOKING...?
IF WE'D *ESCAPED* WHEN I BLEW OFF THE CAVERN ROOF*, INSTEAD OF TEAMING UP WITH THOSE DISGUSTING *DWARFS* WE'D BE *FREE*...
...NOT FROZEN LIKE *STATUES!*
**IN NM #79--BOB.*
IT'S ALL *SAM'S* FAULT. WHO APPOINTED *HIM* LEADER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
'TIS *NOT* SAM'S FAULT! AND *WE*... THE *ORIGINAL* NEW MUTANTS... MADE SAM AND DANI *CO-LEADERS TOGETHER!*
AND SAM DID THE *RIGHT THING!* EITRI IS SAM'S FRIEND AND WE *NEW MUTANTS* STICK BY OUR FRIENDS...
...AND IF THE VALKYRIES *KNEW* WE WERE IN THE CAVERNS, IT WAS PROBABLY *BECAUSE* YOU SET OFF THAT *TIME BOMB* AND CALLED THEIR *ATTENTION* TO US!*
YOU'RE *NEW*... AND RICTOR IS, TOO, BUT NOBODY *MADE* YOU JOIN US!
IF YOU DON'T *LIKE* SAM'S DECISIONS, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD *LEAVE!*
**WHICH IS PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENED-- SCORE-KEEPER BOB.*
WELL, MAYBE I *WILL!* DID *OKAY* WHEN I WAS ALONE. I COULD TAKE CARE OF *MYSELF!*

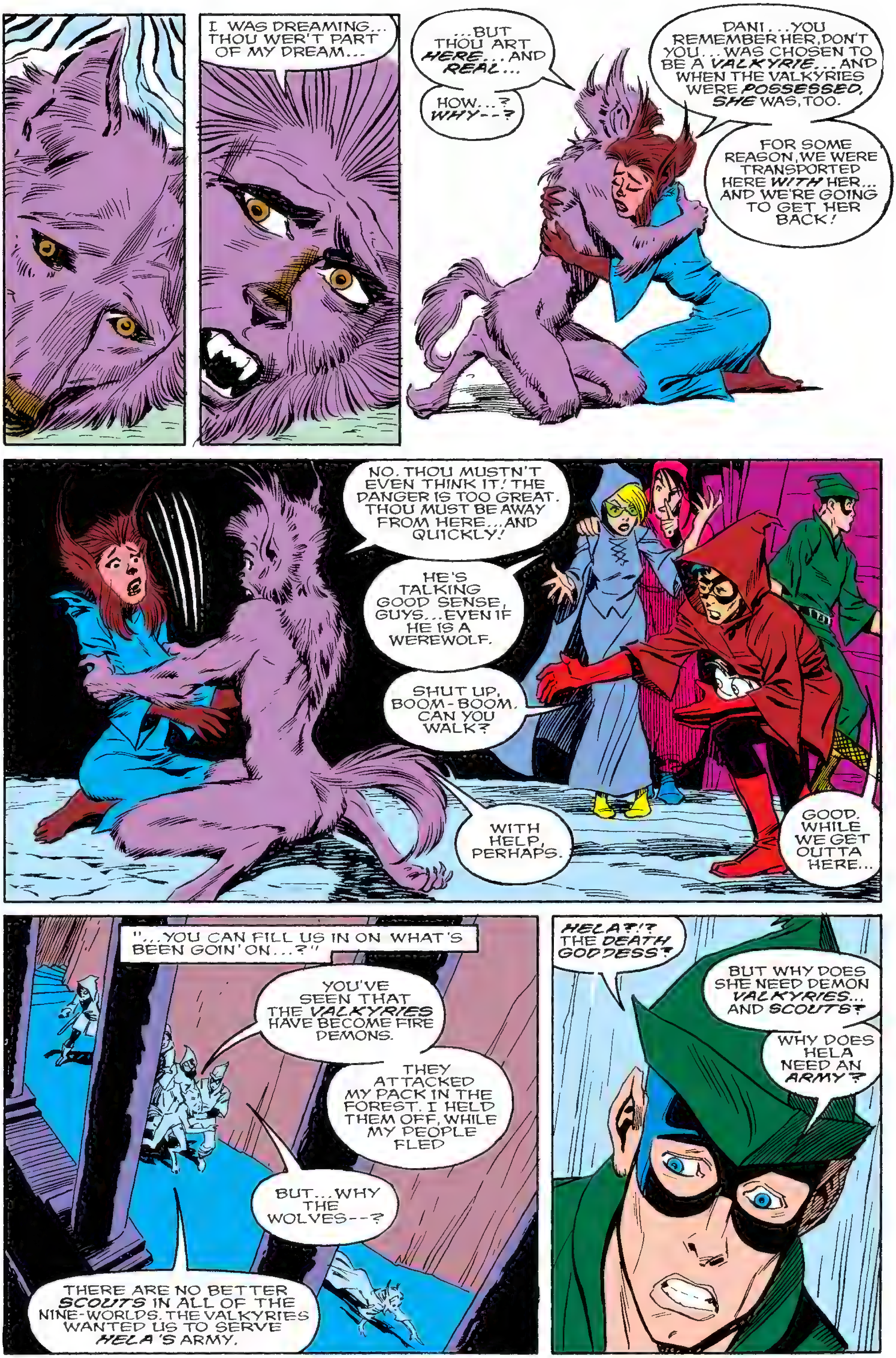

A LITTLE TROUBLE CAME AROUND, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS--
PING!
HEY LOOK! A *TIME BOMB!* CREATING THEM DOESN'T DEPEND ON WHETHER I CAN MOVE...
BOOM!
...OR NOT...
THUD!
BOOM-BOOM! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
YEAH, RICTOR. I'M FINE...
HEY, WEIRD. OUTSIDE THAT ROOM, I CAN *MOVE*. I *BET* THAT'S WHY THEY PUT US--


WHAT WAS *THAT NOISE?*
LOOK! ONE OF THEM HAS *ESCAPED!*
UH OH! I FORGOT ABOUT THE GUARDS! WHAT DO I DO NOW?
I'M *FREE!* I CAN TAKE CARE OF *MYSELF.* I SHOULD *RUN!* SERVE THEM RIGHT IF I *LEFT* THEM...
...ESPECIALLY THAT GOODY-GOODY *RAHNE.* I DON'T NEED THEM...
BOOM!
I DON'T NEED *ANYBODY!*
I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE *RISK* I'M TAKING.


I COULD JUST LEAVE, YOU KNOW.
THIS COULD GET ME IN A LOT OF TROUBLE...
...3...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER.
...2...
...1...
BOOM!
yeiii!
HEY!
SORRY.
YOU BOTHER, BOOM-BOOM, 'CAUSE LIKE RAHNE SAID--WE NEW MUTANTS TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!

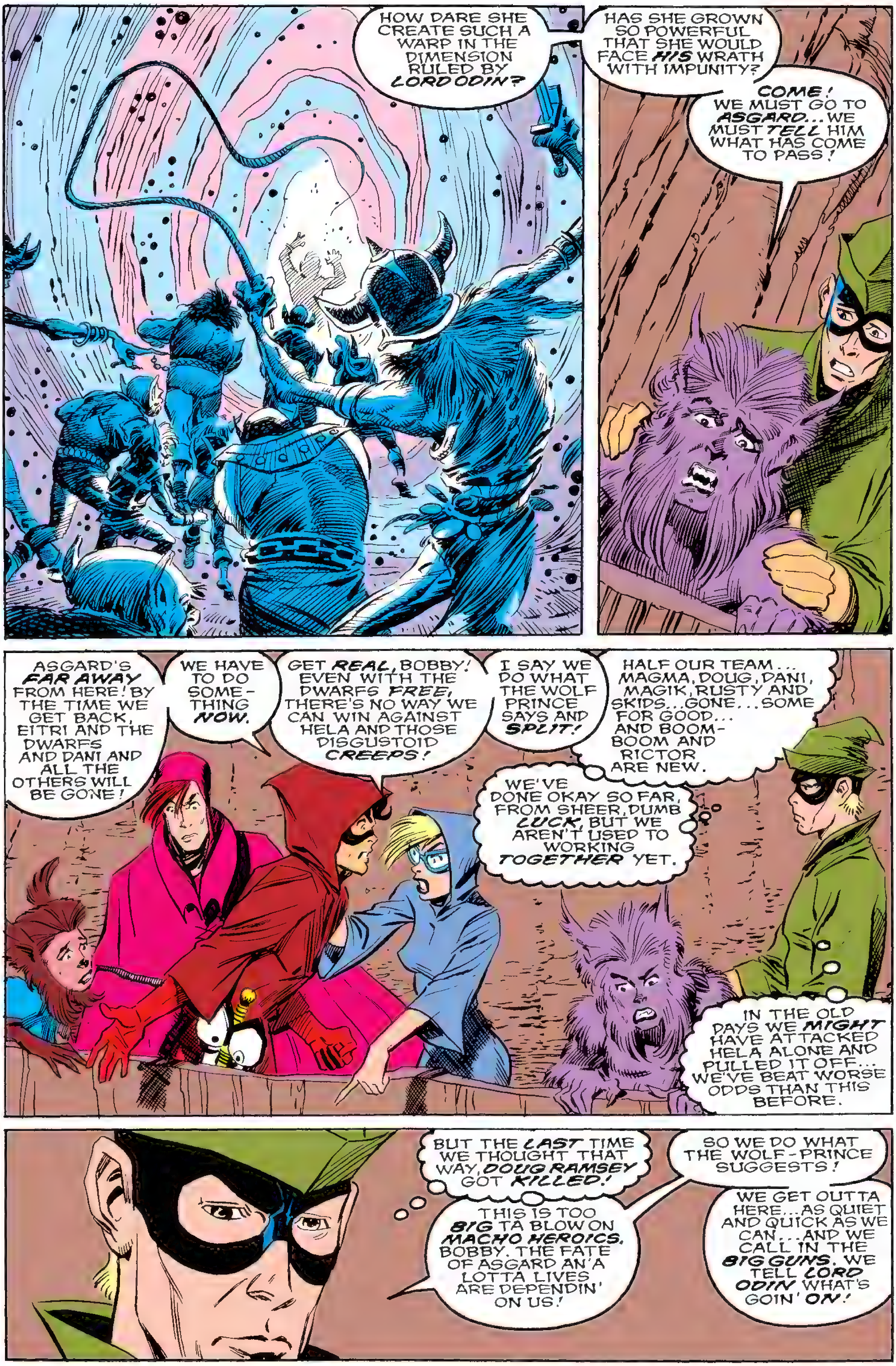

BANG!
THEY'RE IN *THERE!*
I *HEARD THEM!*
OH... NO. YOU KNOW, GUYS...
ALL TOGETHER NOW...
I REALLY HATE THIS!
IF THE BATTLE WAS SHORT LIVED, IT WAS BOTH **EPIC** *AND* **VICTORIOUS.** *THE* **NEW MUTANTS** *LEAVE THE STOREROOM, TRANSFORMED IN* **APPEARANCE**... *IF NOT IN* **ATTITUDE.**
SOMEBODY HAD TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE...
I THINK THAT WHEN I GET US ***OUT*** OF HERE, WE SHOULD VOTE ***ME*** IN AS LEADER!

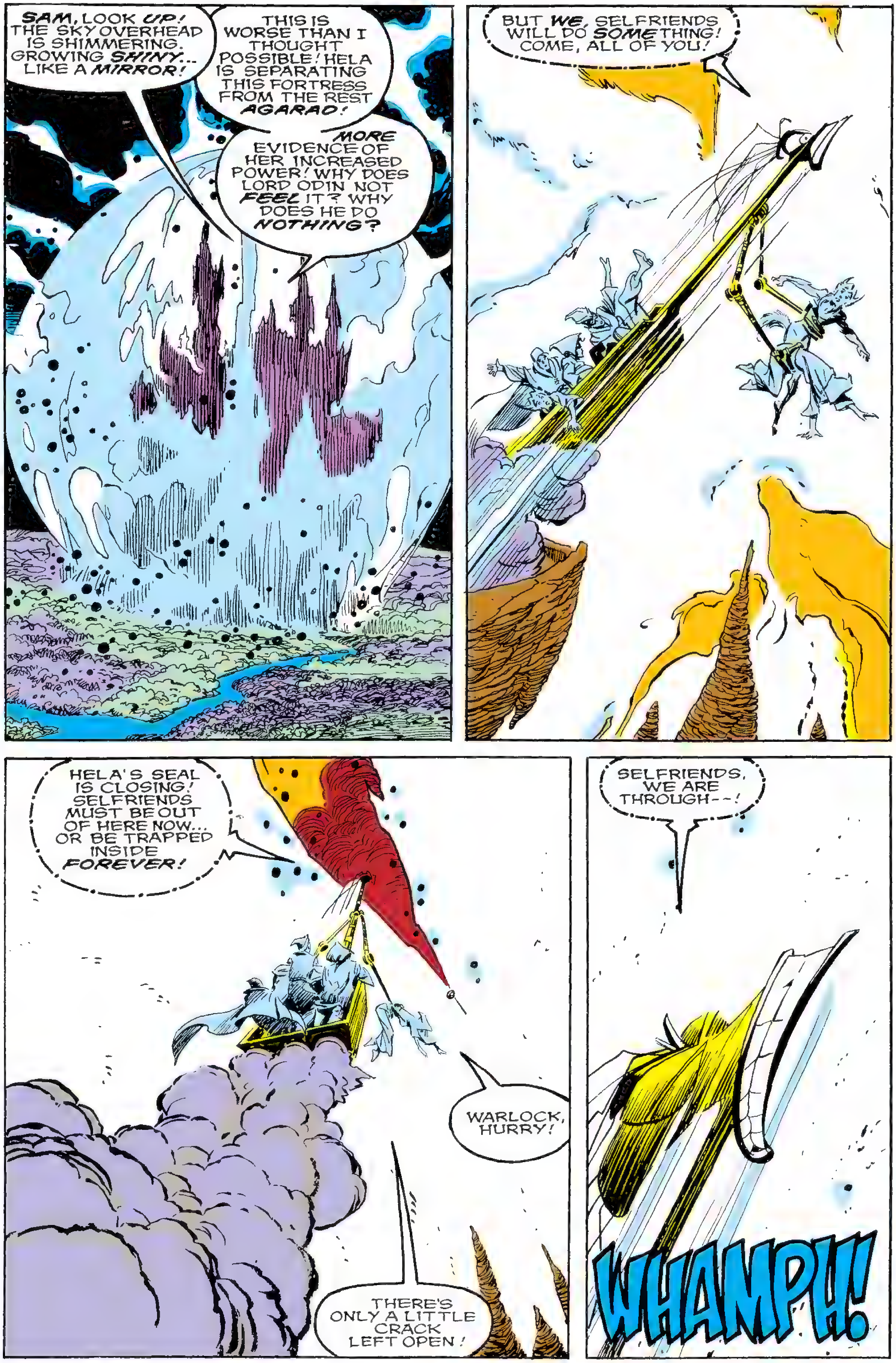

AH GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU, BOOM-BOOM! WE'RE NOT LEAVIN'... AT LEAST NOT YET!
EITRI AND HIS BAND ARE CAPTIVES DOWN BELOW! WE HAFTA FREE 'EM.
YOU'RE TELLING ME I RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO FREE YOU... AND YOU'RE GOING TO TOSS IT AWAY SAVING DWARFS--?
SHALL I LEAD, SAM? MY WOLF-SENSES ARE SHARP, AND I CAN GIVE US AMPLE WARNING OF DANGER--
SSH! GET BACK!
TROLLS. THEY HAVE A PRISONER.
LOOKS MORE LIKE A RATTY OLD FUR COAT! WHAT IS IT?
MY WOLF PRINCE!
SELF-FRIEND, WAIT!
WAIT THERE, CUR! THE DEATH QUEEN HAS SPECIAL BUSINESS WITH YOU!
INTERMINABLE MINUTES LATER...
MY PRINCE! MY WOLF PRINCE! HE'S IN HERE!
WOLF--? LIKE IN WEREWOLF OF LONDON--?
WOLF--LIKE ME!
THE DOOR, BOBBY! BREAK IT DOWN! PLEASE!
KRRASH!
OH... PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD. SAY SOMETHING. SPEAK TO ME!

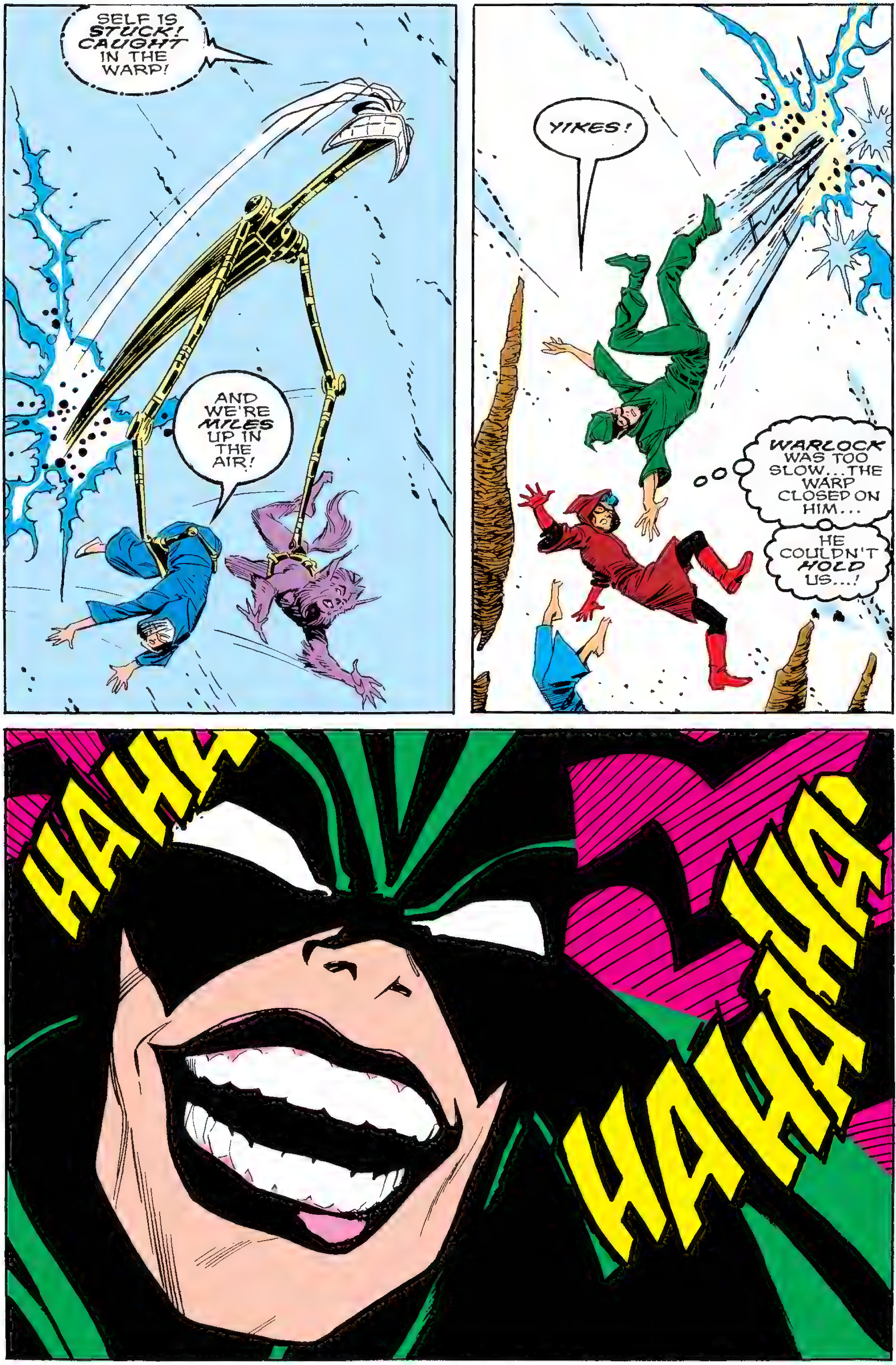

I WAS DREAMING... THOU WER'T PART OF MY DREAM...
...BUT THOU ART *HERE*... AND *REAL*...
HOW...? *WHY*--?
DANI...YOU REMEMBER HER, DON'T YOU... WAS CHOSEN TO BE A *VALKYRIE*... AND WHEN THE VALKYRIES WERE *POSSESSED*, *SHE* WAS, TOO.
FOR SOME REASON, WE WERE TRANSPORTED HERE *WITH* HER... AND WE'RE GOING TO GET HER BACK!
NO. THOU MUSTN'T EVEN THINK IT! THE DANGER IS TOO GREAT. THOU MUST BE AWAY FROM HERE...AND QUICKLY!
HE'S TALKING GOOD SENSE, GUYS...EVEN IF HE IS A WEREWOLF.
SHUT UP, BOOM-BOOM. CAN YOU WALK?
WITH HELP, PERHAPS.
GOOD. WHILE WE GET OUTTA HERE...
"...YOU CAN FILL US IN ON WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON...?"
YOU'VE SEEN THAT THE *VALKYRIES* HAVE BECOME FIRE DEMONS.
THEY ATTACKED MY PACK IN THE FOREST. I HELD THEM OFF, WHILE MY PEOPLE FLED
BUT...WHY THE WOLVES--?
THERE ARE NO BETTER *SCOUTS* IN ALL OF THE NINE-WORLDS. THE VALKYRIES WANTED US TO SERVE *HELA*'S ARMY.
HELA?!? THE *DEATH GODDESS?*
BUT WHY DOES SHE NEED DEMON *VALKYRIES*... AND *SCOUTS?*
WHY DOES HELA NEED AN *ARMY?*

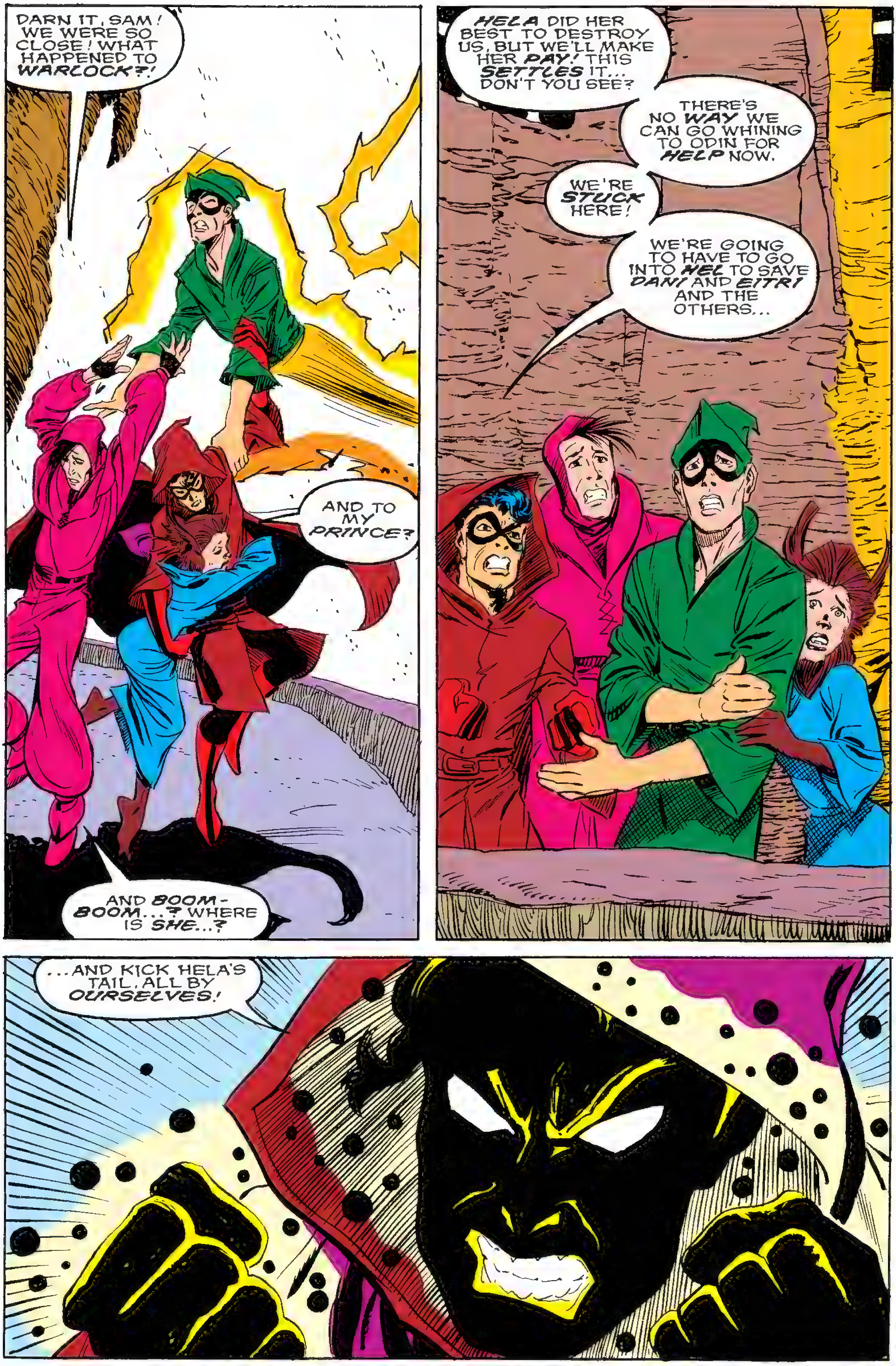
HELA HATH SUBOURNED THE VALKYRIES...WHO HAVE, IN TURN, ENTHRALLED THE EINHERAR.
SHE PLANS TO ATTACK ASGARD ITSELF.
IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REACH THAT *HIGH*, SHE IS THE ONE YOU MUST DEFEAT, IF YOU ARE TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND.
THE *DWARF-LORD EITRI*, IS *MINE*... AND MY ARMY DOTH SWELL WITH THE CREAM OF ASGARD'S WARRIORS.
BUT THE *NEW MUTANTS* HAVE ESCAPED THEIR CELL! THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP FROM THE CASTLE!
THE NEED FOR SECRECY IS STILL TOO GREAT.
DRIVE MY LIVING CAPTIVES FROM THE DUNGEONS, MY VALKYRIES, AND INTO THE COURTYARD...
...WHILE I BEGIN THE SPELL THAT WILL SEPARATE VALHALLA FROM THE REST OF ASGARD, AND LINK IT DIRECTLY TO MY OWN DIMENSION OF *HEL*.

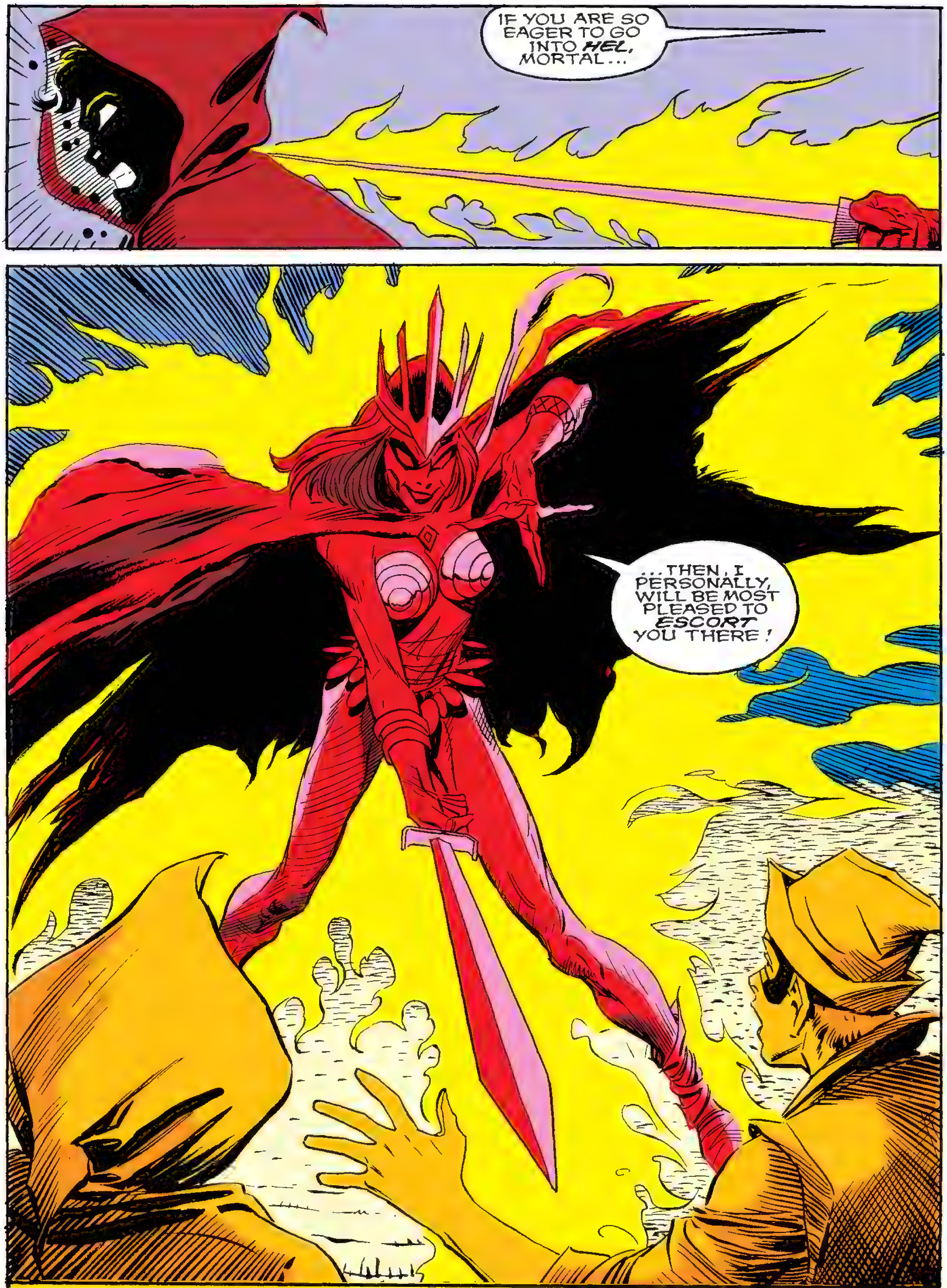
SAM, LOOK! HELA'S CAPTIVES ARE BEING HERDED INTO THE *COURTYARD!*
MOVE, YE TROLLS AND DWARFS! *ONWARD,* YE GIANTS AND FAIRIES!
WHAT'S WITH THE *AIR* IN THE COURTYARD? IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S *TEARING OPEN!*
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A YAWNING HOLE TA *NOWHERE!*
BY TIWAZ' ICY REALM! *HELA* HAS OPENED A *PORTAL* INTO *HEL--!*


HOW DARE SHE CREATE SUCH A WARP IN THE DIMENSION RULED BY *LORD ODIN?*
HAS SHE GROWN SO POWERFUL THAT SHE WOULD FACE *HIS* WRATH WITH IMPUNITY?
COME! WE MUST GO TO *ASGARD...* WE MUST *TELL* HIM WHAT HAS COME TO PASS!
ASGARD'S *FAR AWAY* FROM HERE! BY THE TIME WE GET BACK, EITRI AND THE DWARFS AND DANI AND ALL THE OTHERS WILL BE GONE!
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING *NOW.*
GET *REAL,* BOBBY! EVEN WITH THE DWARFS *FREE,* THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN AGAINST HELA AND THOSE DISGUSTOID *CREEPS!*
I SAY WE DO WHAT THE WOLF PRINCE SAYS AND *SPLIT!*
HALF OUR TEAM... MAGMA, DOUG, DANI, MAGIK, RUSTY AND SKIDS... GONE... SOME FOR GOOD... AND BOOM-BOOM AND RICTOR ARE NEW.
WE'VE DONE OKAY SO FAR, FROM SHEER, DUMB *LUCK,* BUT WE AREN'T USED TO WORKING *TOGETHER* YET.
IN THE OLD DAYS WE *MIGHT* HAVE ATTACKED HELA ALONE AND PULLED IT OFF... WE'VE BEAT WORSE ODDS THAN THIS BEFORE.
BUT THE *LAST* TIME WE THOUGHT THAT WAY, *DOUG RAMSEY* GOT *KILLED!*
THIS IS TOO *BIG* TA BLOW ON *MACHO HEROICS,* BOBBY. THE FATE OF ASGARD AN' A LOTTA LIVES ARE DEPENDIN' ON US!
SO WE DO WHAT THE WOLF-PRINCE SUGGESTS!
WE GET OUTTA HERE... AS QUIET AND QUICK AS WE CAN... AND WE CALL IN THE *BIG GUNS.* WE TELL *LORD ODIN* WHAT'S GOIN' *ON!*


SAM, LOOK UP! THE SKY OVERHEAD IS SHIMMERING. GROWING SHINY... LIKE A MIRROR!
THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE! HELA IS SEPARATING THIS FORTRESS FROM THE REST AGARAD!
MORE EVIDENCE OF HER INCREASED POWER! WHY DOES LORD ODIN NOT FEEL IT? WHY DOES HE DO NOTHING?
BUT WE, SELFRIENDS WILL DO SOMETHING! COME, ALL OF YOU!
HELA'S SEAL IS CLOSING! SELFRIENDS MUST BE OUT OF HERE NOW... OR BE TRAPPED INSIDE FOREVER!
WARLOCK, HURRY!
THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE CRACK LEFT OPEN!
SELFRIENDS, WE ARE THROUGH--!
WHAMPH!


SELF IS *STUCK!* *CAUGHT* IN THE WARP!
AND WE'RE *MILES* UP IN THE AIR!
YIKES!
WARLOCK WAS TOO SLOW... THE WARP CLOSED ON HIM...
HE COULDN'T *HOLD* US...!
HAHA
HAHAHA


DARN IT, SAM! WE WERE SO CLOSE! WHAT HAPPENED TO WARLOCK?!
AND TO MY PRINCE?
AND BOOM-BOOM...? WHERE IS SHE...?
HELA DID HER BEST TO DESTROY US, BUT WE'LL MAKE HER PAY! THIS SETTLES IT... DON'T YOU SEE?
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GO WHINING TO ODIN FOR HELP NOW.
WE'RE STUCK HERE!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO INTO HEL TO SAVE DANI AND EITRI AND THE OTHERS...
...AND KICK HELA'S TAIL, ALL BY OURSELVES!


IF YOU ARE SO EAGER TO GO INTO HEL, MORTAL...
...THEN, I PERSONALLY, WILL BE MOST PLEASED TO ESCORT YOU THERE!

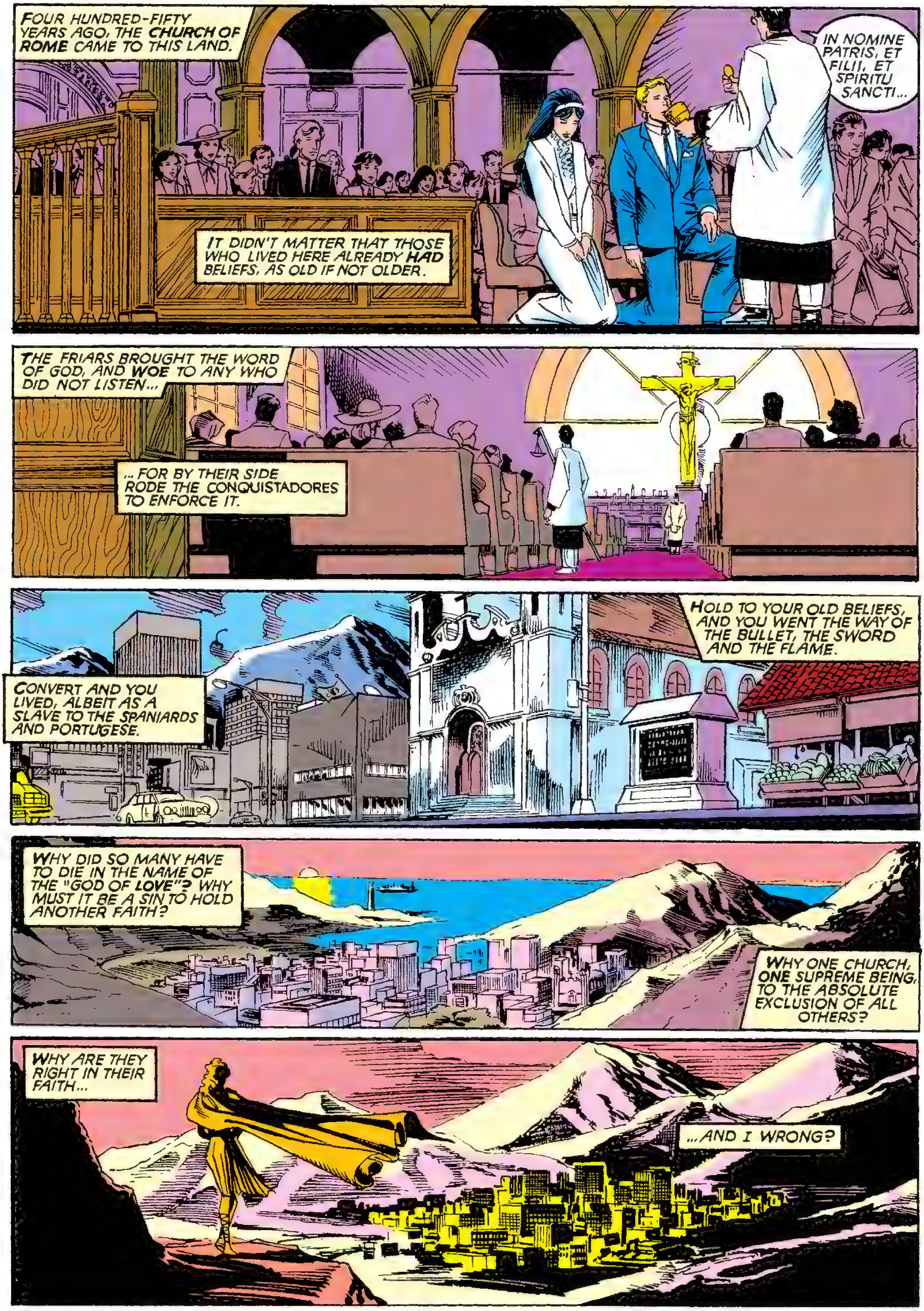
SAM, BOBBY, RAYNE AND RICTOR JOURNEY INTO HEL, WHILE BOOM-BOOM, THE WOLF-PRINCE AND WARLOCK MAKE THEIR DEBUT AS THE NEW...

WARRIORS THREE?!?

DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE AS THE WEAPON IS FORGED AND HELA'S PLOT IS REVEALED!

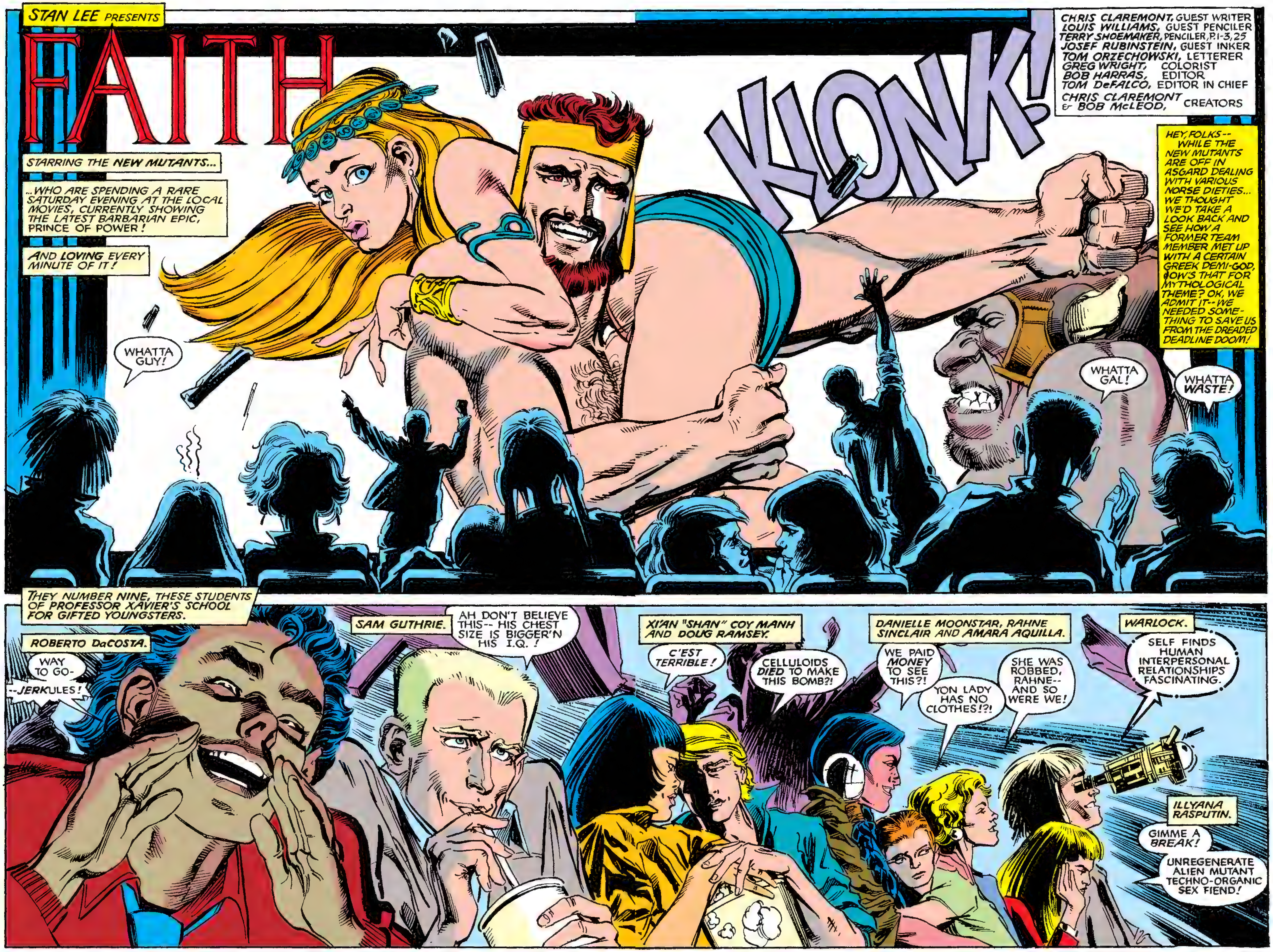
OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE: UPDATE '89
PROFILE ART BY JON BOGDANOVE, JOSEF RUBINSTEIN & ANDY YANCHUS

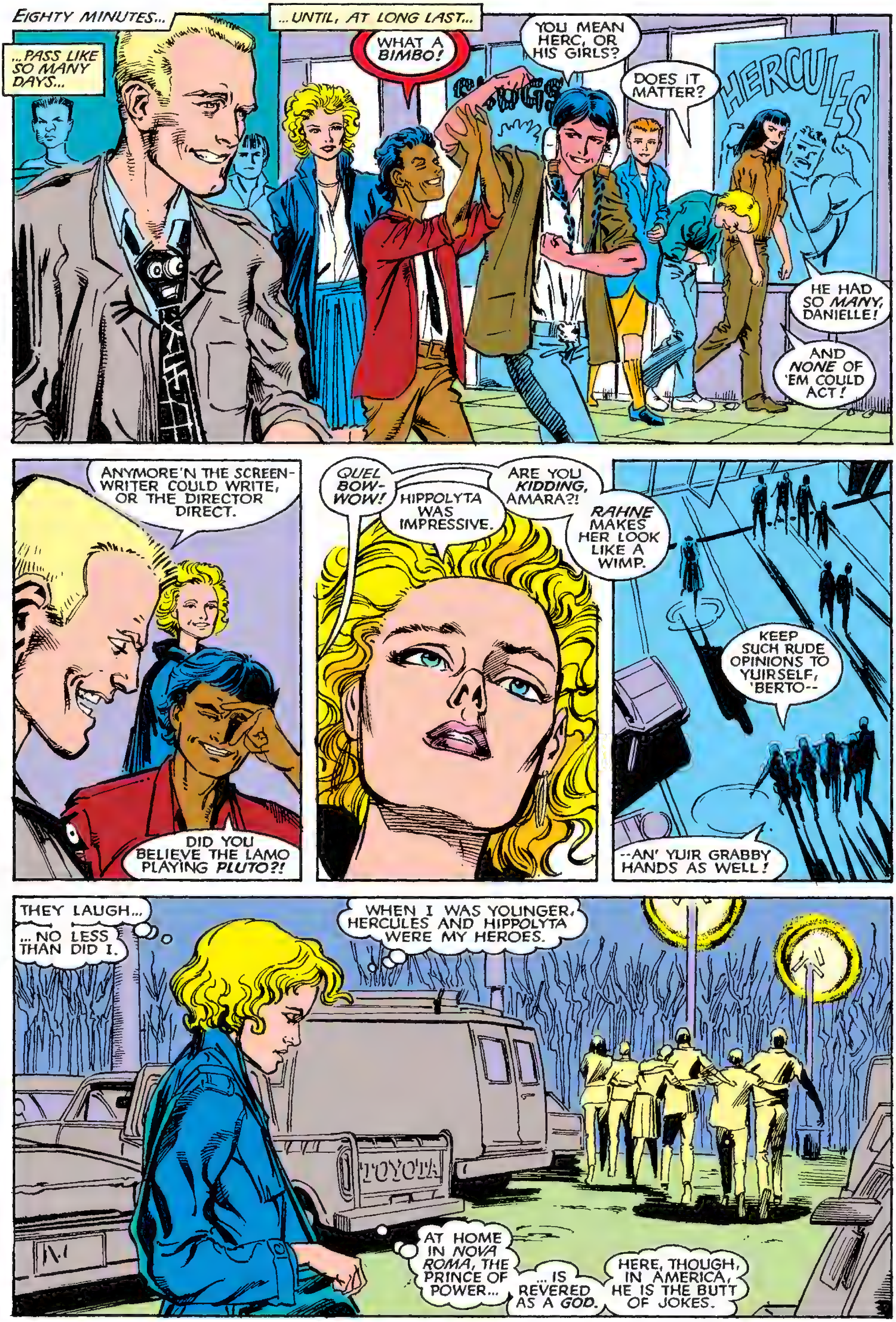
MARVEL
THE NEW
MUTANTS
$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
81
NOV
CC 02207
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEATURING
MAGMA
AND
HERCULES
PRINCE OF POWER!
LW/JR

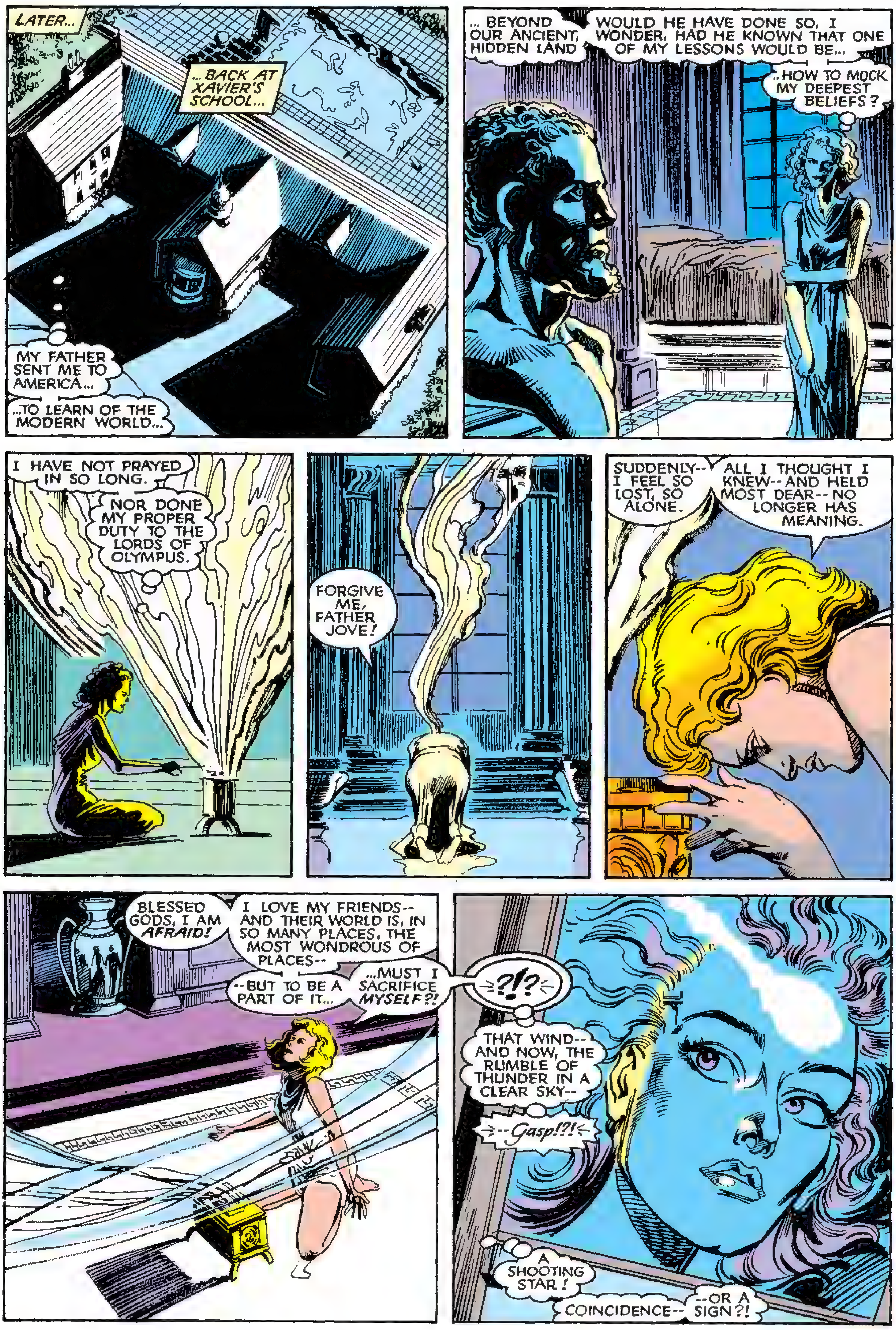

FOUR HUNDRED-FIFTY YEARS AGO, THE **CHURCH OF ROME** CAME TO THIS LAND.
IN NOMINE PATRIS, ET FILII, ET SPIRITU SANCTI...
IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT THOSE WHO LIVED HERE ALREADY **HAD** BELIEFS, AS OLD IF NOT OLDER.
THE FRIARS BROUGHT THE WORD OF GOD, AND **WOE** TO ANY WHO DID NOT LISTEN...
...FOR BY THEIR SIDE RODE THE CONQUISTADORES TO ENFORCE IT.
CONVERT AND YOU LIVED, ALBEIT AS A SLAVE TO THE SPANIARDS AND PORTUGESE.
HOLD TO YOUR OLD BELIEFS, AND YOU WENT THE WAY OF THE BULLET, THE SWORD AND THE FLAME.
WHY DID SO MANY HAVE TO DIE IN THE NAME OF THE "GOD OF **LOVE**"? WHY MUST IT BE A SIN TO HOLD ANOTHER FAITH?
WHY ONE CHURCH, **ONE** SUPREME BEING, TO THE ABSOLUTE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS?
WHY ARE THEY RIGHT IN THEIR FAITH...
...AND I WRONG?

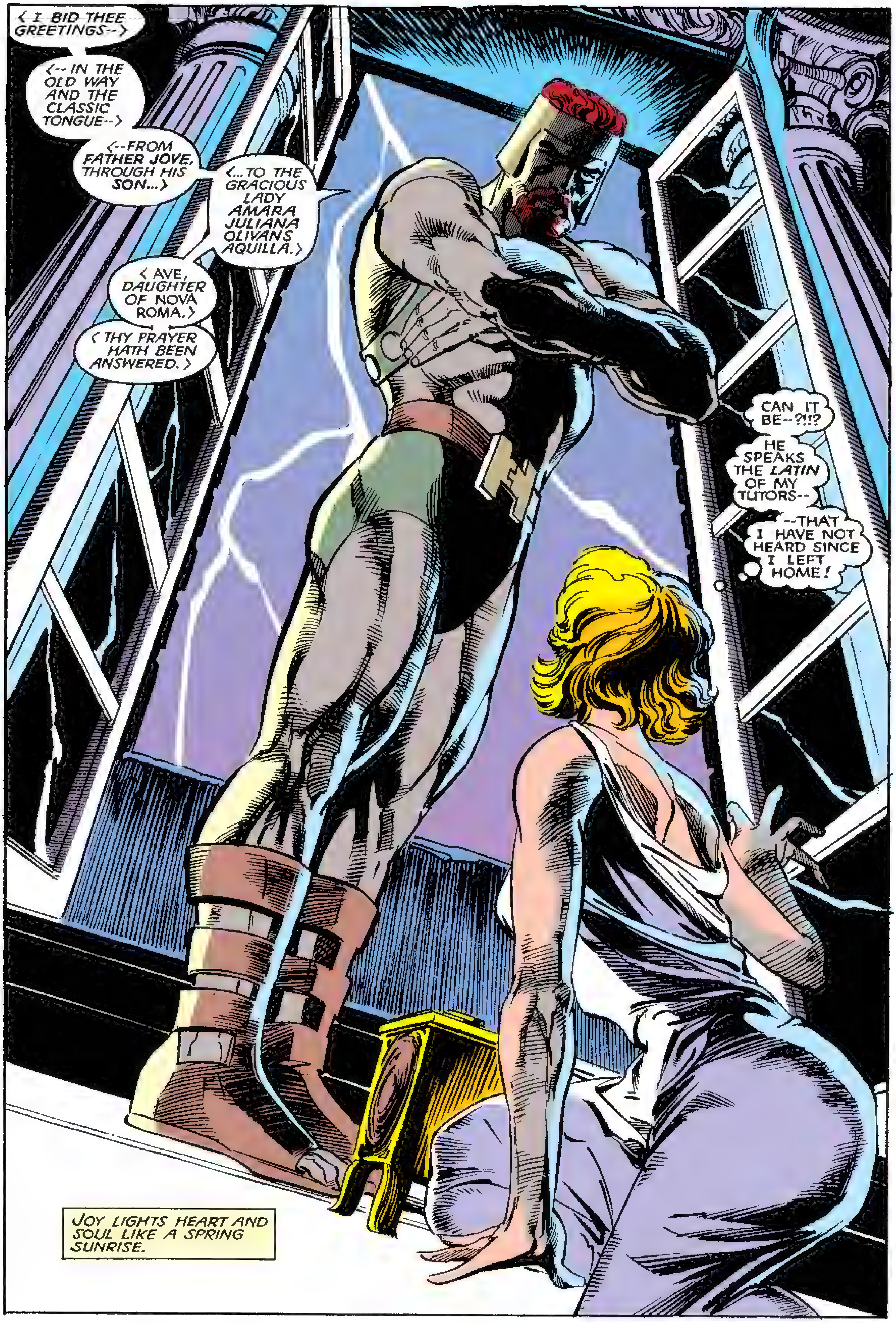
IN MY OWN WAY, I AM AS MUCH A CHILD OF ROME AS THIS "HOLY MOTHER CHURCH." MY ANCESTORS FLED THAT ETERNAL CITY IN THE DAYS OF GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR, WITH THE DEATH OF THE OLD REPUBLIC, SAILING WESTWARD THROUGH THE PILLARS OF HERCULES TO THE AMERICAS.
MY FATHER IS THE FIRST SENATOR OF **NOVA ROMA**, THE CITY THEY FOUNDED IN THE ANDEAN HIGHLANDS, NEAR THE HEADWATERS OF THE AMAZON.
I AM **AMARA JULIANA OLIVANS AQUILLA.**
BUT I AM ALSO **MAGMA**-- WHOSE WILL COMMANDS THE MOLTEN SUBSTANCE OF THE HEART OF THE WORLD--
--A **MUTANT...**
...AS IS MY-- FRIEND, **MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGO De La ROCHA.**
EMPATH.
AS I SHAPE LIVING ROCK, SO DOES HE-- DESCENDANT OF THOSE WHO SEIZED THIS LAND--
--THE EMOTIONS OF THOSE AROUND HIM.
IT WAS A LOVELY SERVICE, AMARA. YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE.
YOU SCOFF AT THE RITUALS OF MY PEOPLE.
THEY ARE PAGAN-- HEATHEN!
IN WHOSE EYES?
GOD'S!
Ah.
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR GOD IS **REAL?**
DON'T BE BLASPHEMOUS, OF **COURSE** HE'S REAL!
PROVE IT.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
A SIMPLE ENOUGH REQUEST, I SHOULD THINK-- PROVE TO ME YOUR GOD IS REAL.
THAT'S EASY, MANUEL--
PROVE TO ME **YOURS** ARE!
--I'VE **MET** MINE.

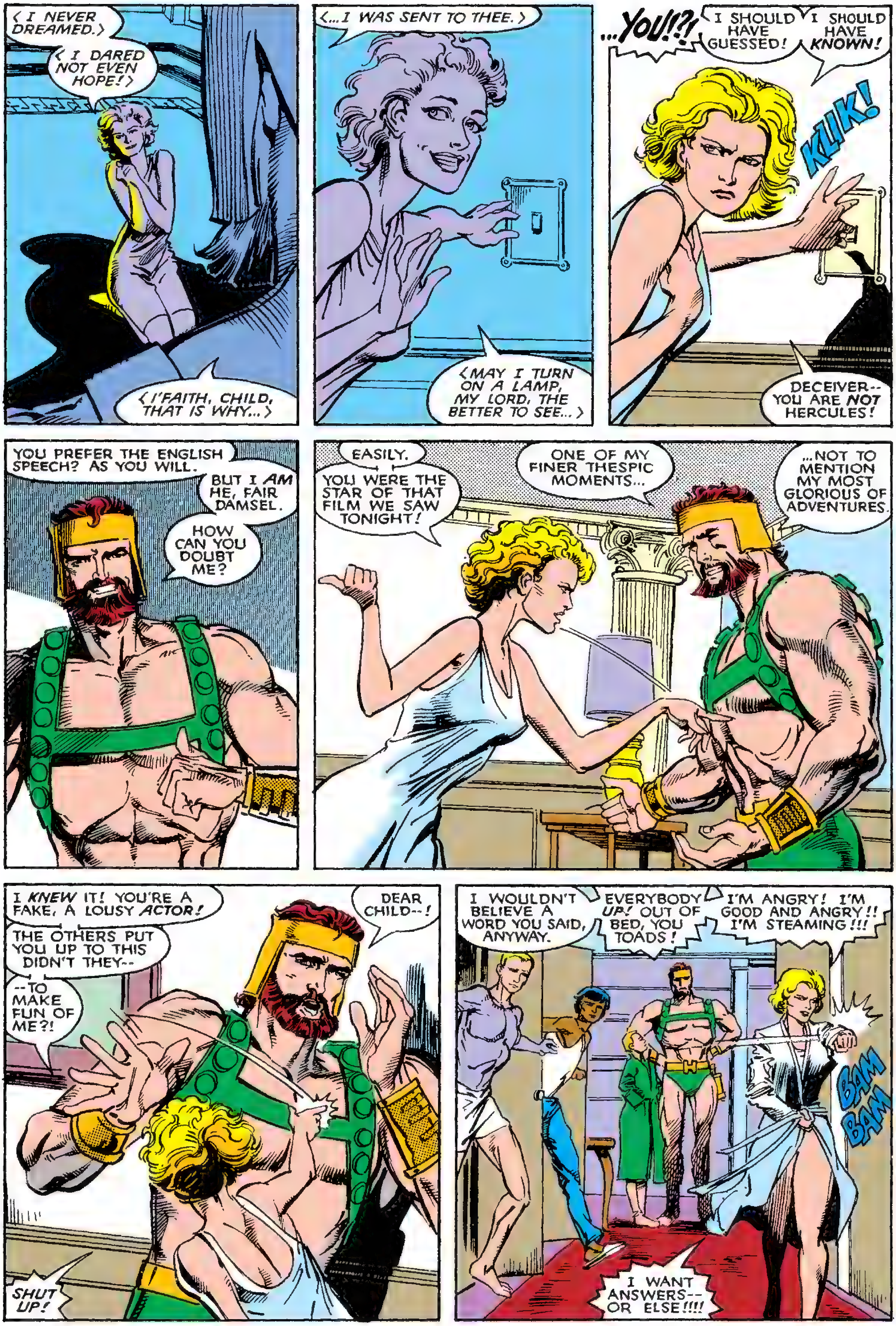
HAVE AT THEE, RECREANT!
YOU AND YOUR FOUL FELLOWS...
...WILL HARM NOT A HAIR OF THIS FAIR DAMSEL'S HEAD!
SO SPEAKS THE PRINCE OF POWER--
-HERCULES!

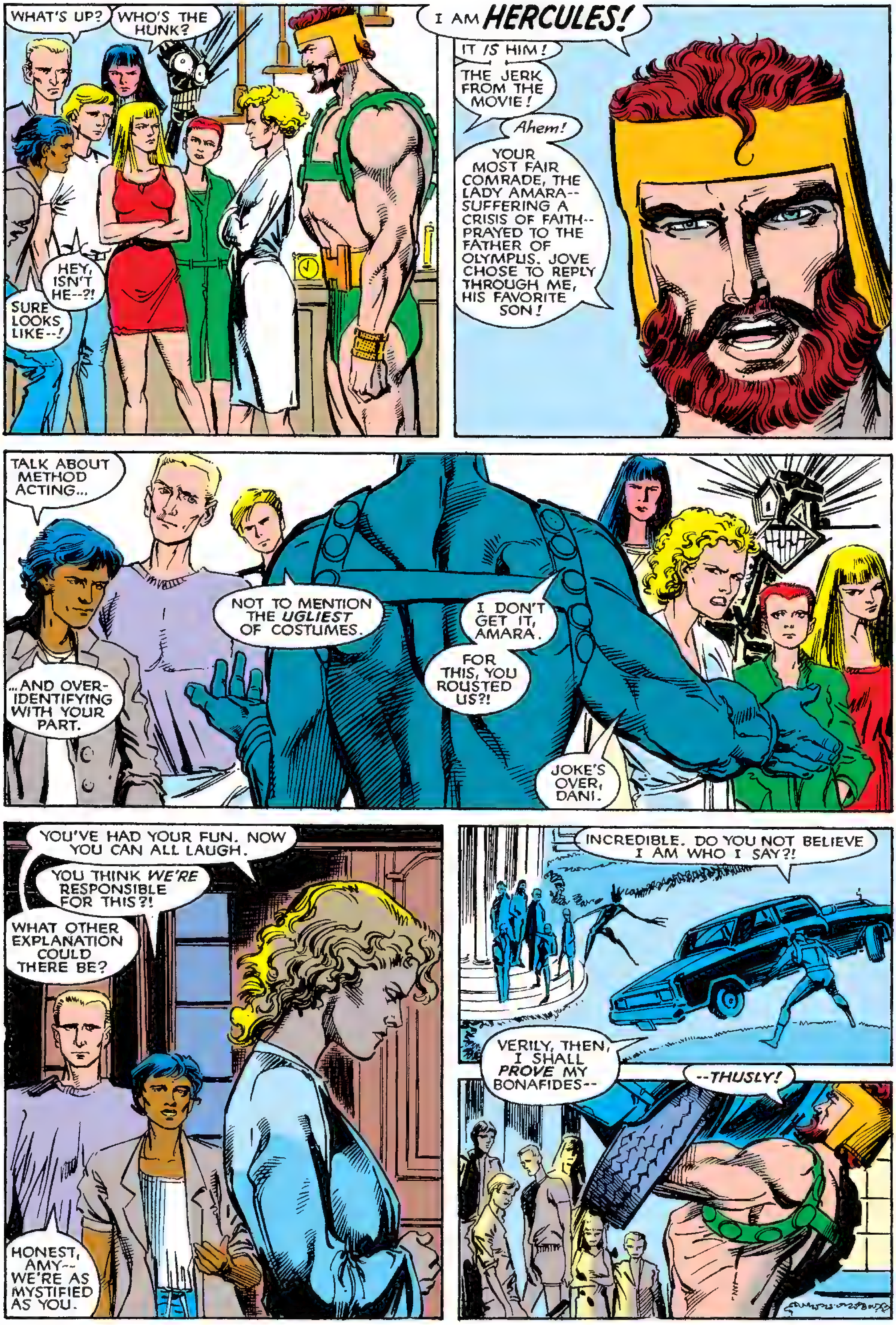

STAN LEE PRESENTS
FAITH
CHRIS CLAREMONT, GUEST WRITER
LOUIS WILLIAMS, GUEST PENCILER
TERRY SHOEMAKER, PENCILER, P.1-3,25
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN, GUEST INKER
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
GREG WRIGHT, COLORIST
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD, CREATORS
KLONK!
STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS...
...WHO ARE SPENDING A RARE SATURDAY EVENING AT THE LOCAL MOVIES, CURRENTLY SHOWING THE LATEST BARBARIAN EPIC, PRINCE OF POWER!
AND LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
HEY, FOLKS-- WHILE THE NEW MUTANTS ARE OFF IN ASGARD DEALING WITH VARIOUS NORSE DIETIES... WE THOUGHT WE'D TAKE A LOOK BACK AND SEE HOW A FORMER TEAM MEMBER MET UP WITH A CERTAIN GREEK DEMI-GOD, HOW'S THAT FOR MYTHOLOGICAL THEME? OK, WE ADMIT IT--WE NEEDED SOMETHING TO SAVE US FROM THE DREADED DEADLINE DOOM!
WHATTA GUY!
WHATTA GAL!
WHATTA WASTE!
THEY NUMBER NINE, THESE STUDENTS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
ROBERTO DaCOSTA.
WAY TO GO-
--JERKULES!
SAM GUTHRIE.
AH DON'T BELIEVE THIS-- HIS CHEST SIZE IS BIGGER'N HIS I.Q.!
XI'AN "SHAN" COY MANH AND DOUG RAMSEY.
C'EST TERRIBLE!
CELLULOIDS DIED TO MAKE THIS BOMB?!
DANIELLE MOONSTAR, RAHNE SINCLAIR AND AMARA AQUILLA.
WE PAID MONEY TO SEE THIS?!
YON LADY HAS NO CLOTHES!?!
SHE WAS ROBBED, RAHNE-- AND SO WERE WE!
WARLOCK.
SELF FINDS HUMAN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS FASCINATING.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN.
GIMME A BREAK!
UNREGENERATE ALIEN MUTANT TECHNO-ORGANIC SEX FIEND!

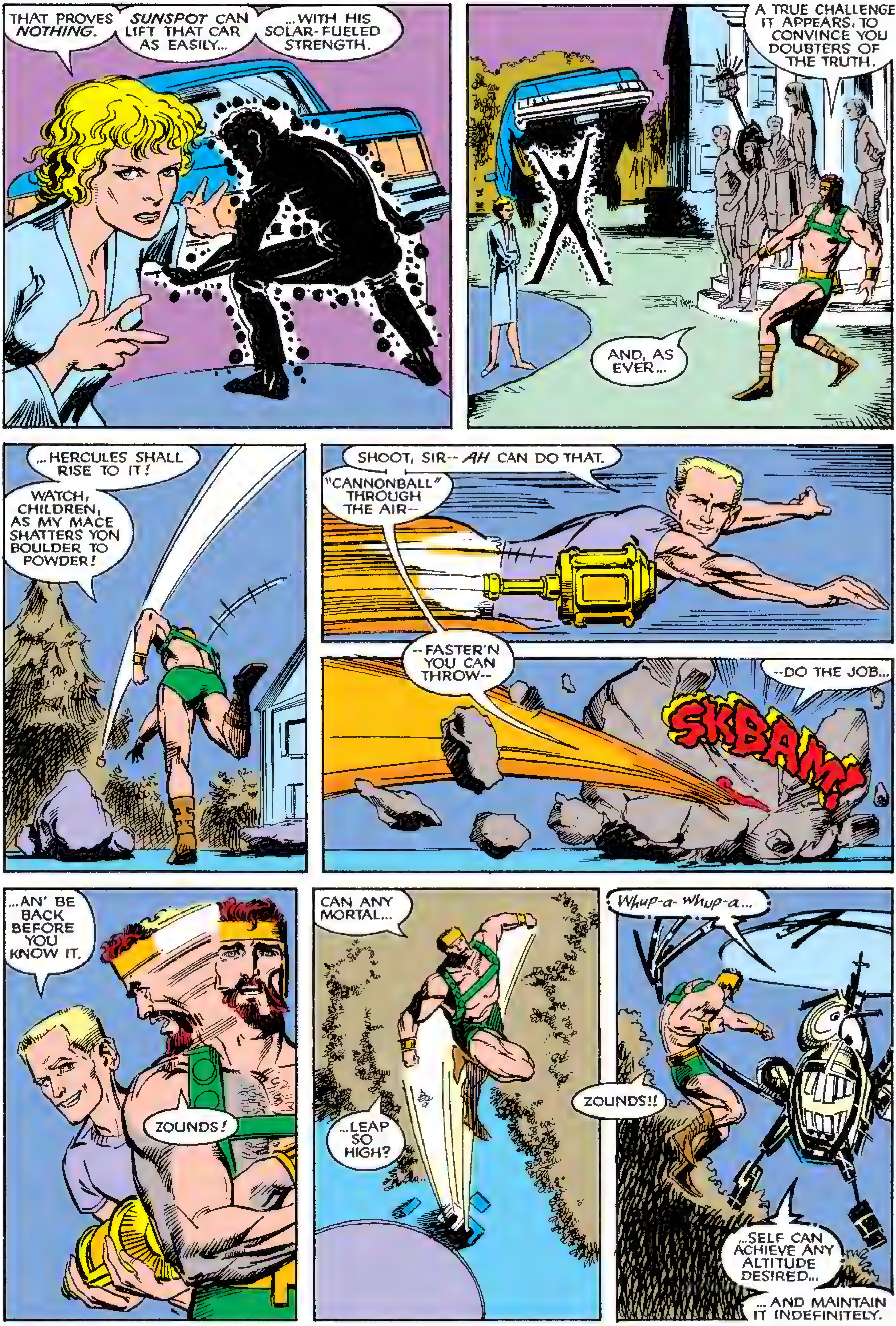

EIGHTY MINUTES...
...PASS LIKE SO MANY DAYS...
...UNTIL, AT LONG LAST...
WHAT A BIMBO!
YOU MEAN HERC, OR HIS GIRLS?
DOES IT MATTER?
HERCULES
HE HAD SO MANY, DANIELLE!
AND NONE OF 'EM COULD ACT!
ANYMORE'N THE SCREEN-WRITER COULD WRITE, OR THE DIRECTOR DIRECT.
DID YOU BELIEVE THE LAMO PLAYING PLUTO?!
QUEL BOW-WOW!
HIPPOLYTA WAS IMPRESSIVE.
ARE YOU KIDDING, AMARA?!
RAHNE MAKES HER LOOK LIKE A WIMP.
KEEP SUCH RUDE OPINIONS TO YUIRSELF, 'BERTO--
--AN' YUIR GRABBY HANDS AS WELL!
THEY LAUGH...
...NO LESS THAN DID I.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, HERCULES AND HIPPOLYTA WERE MY HEROES.
AT HOME IN NOVA ROMA, THE PRINCE OF POWER...
...IS REVERED AS A GOD.
HERE, THOUGH, IN AMERICA, HE IS THE BUTT OF JOKES.
TOYOTA

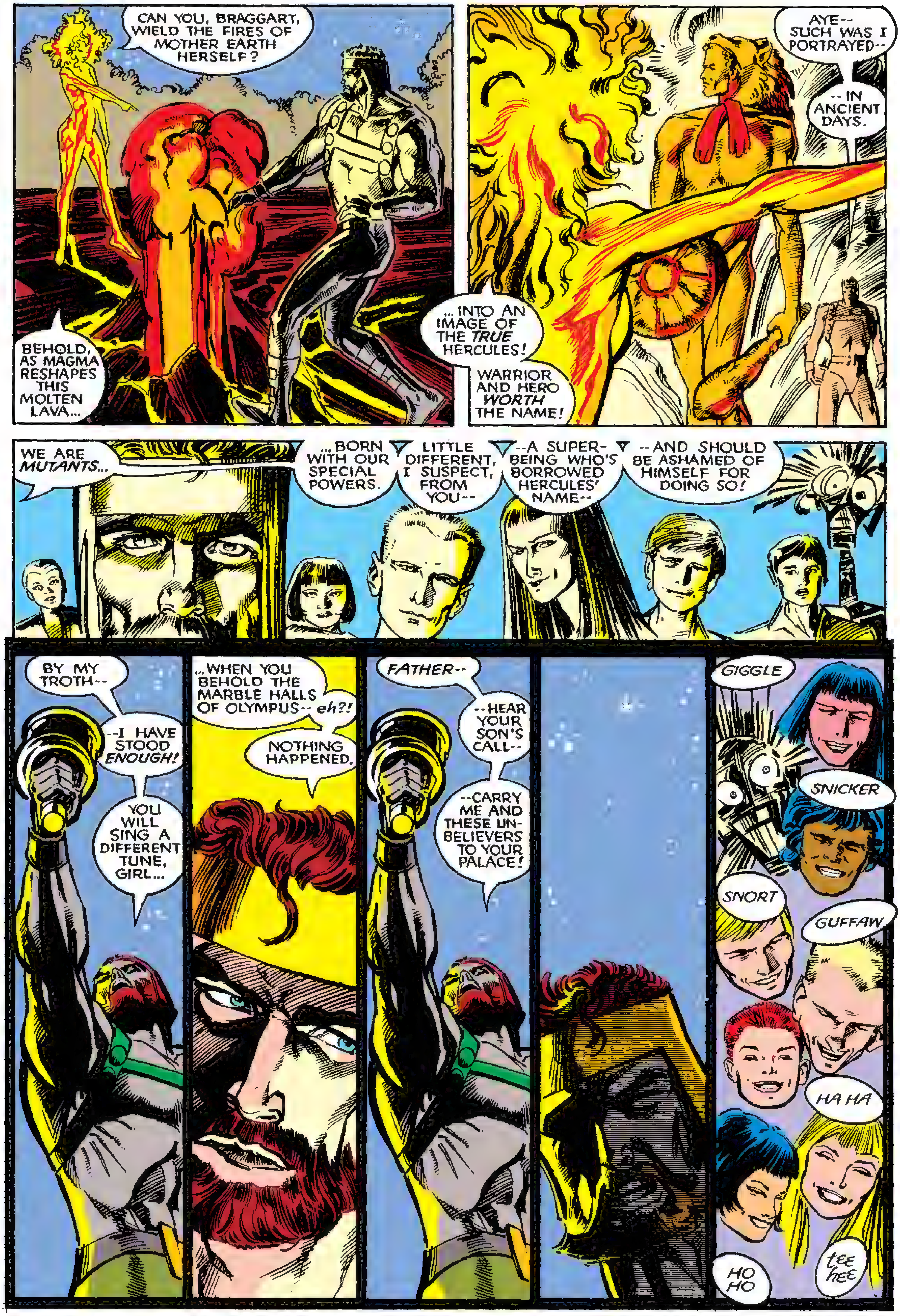

LATER...
...BACK AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL...
MY FATHER SENT ME TO AMERICA...
...TO LEARN OF THE MODERN WORLD...
... BEYOND OUR ANCIENT, HIDDEN LAND
WOULD HE HAVE DONE SO, I WONDER, HAD HE KNOWN THAT ONE OF MY LESSONS WOULD BE...
...HOW TO MOCK MY DEEPEST BELIEFS?
I HAVE NOT PRAYED IN SO LONG.
NOR DONE MY PROPER DUTY TO THE LORDS OF OLYMPUS.
FORGIVE ME, FATHER JOVE!
SUDDENLY-- I FEEL SO LOST, SO ALONE.
ALL I THOUGHT I KNEW--AND HELD MOST DEAR--NO LONGER HAS MEANING.
BLESSED GODS, I AM *AFRAID!*
I LOVE MY FRIENDS--AND THEIR WORLD IS, IN SO MANY PLACES, THE MOST WONDROUS OF PLACES--
--BUT TO BE A PART OF IT...
...MUST I SACRIFICE *MYSELF?!*
?!?
THAT WIND--AND NOW, THE RUMBLE OF THUNDER IN A CLEAR SKY--
--*Gasp!?!*
A SHOOTING STAR!
COINCIDENCE--
--OR A SIGN?!

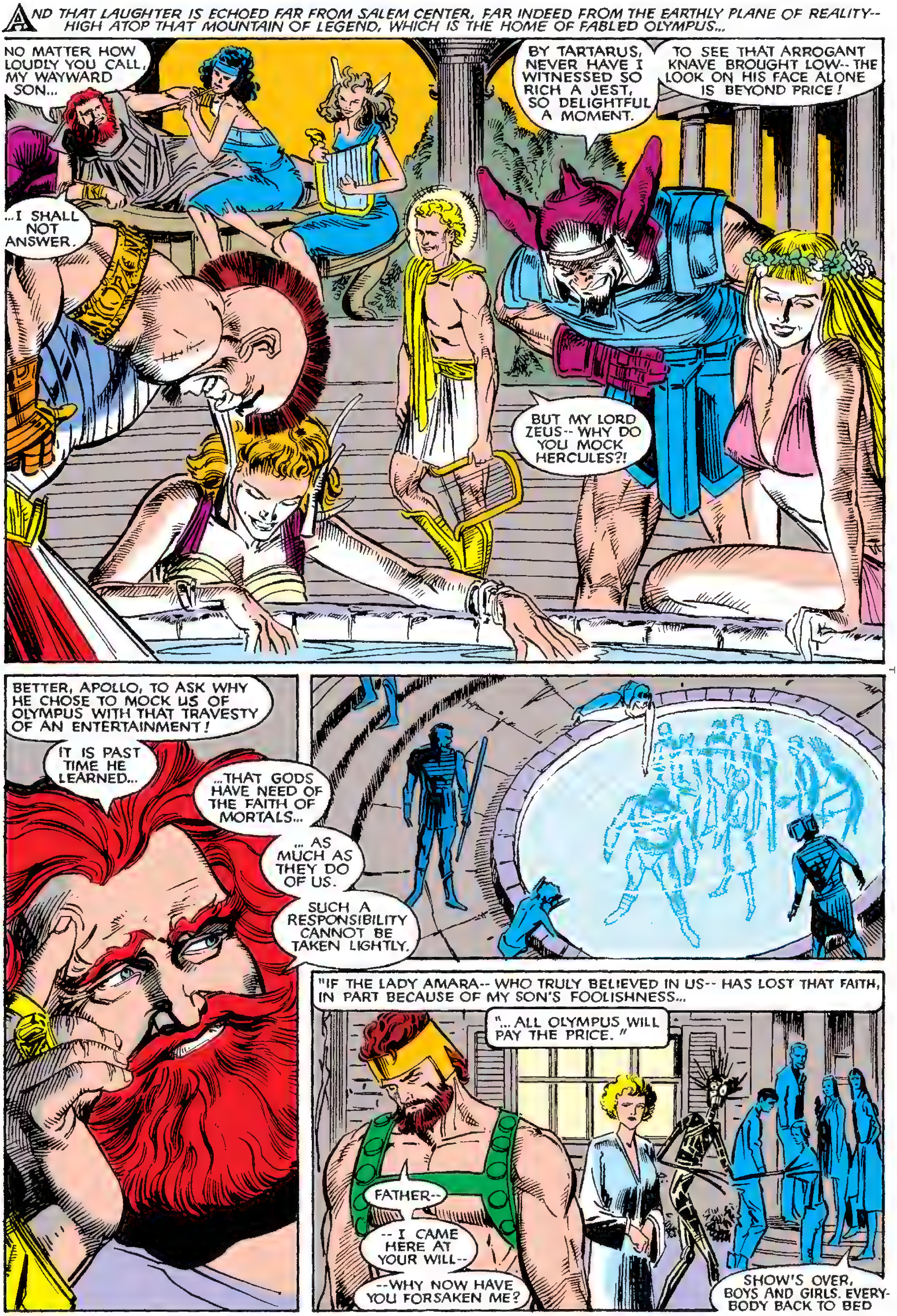

⟨ I BID THEE GREETINGS--⟩
⟨-- IN THE OLD WAY AND THE CLASSIC TONGUE--⟩
⟨--FROM FATHER JOVE, THROUGH HIS SON...⟩
⟨...TO THE GRACIOUS LADY AMARA JULIANA OLIVANS AQUILLA.⟩
⟨ AVE, DAUGHTER OF NOVA ROMA.⟩
⟨ THY PRAYER HATH BEEN ANSWERED.⟩
CAN IT BE--?!!?
HE SPEAKS THE LATIN OF MY TUTORS--
--THAT I HAVE NOT HEARD SINCE I LEFT HOME!
JOY LIGHTS HEART AND SOUL LIKE A SPRING SUNRISE.

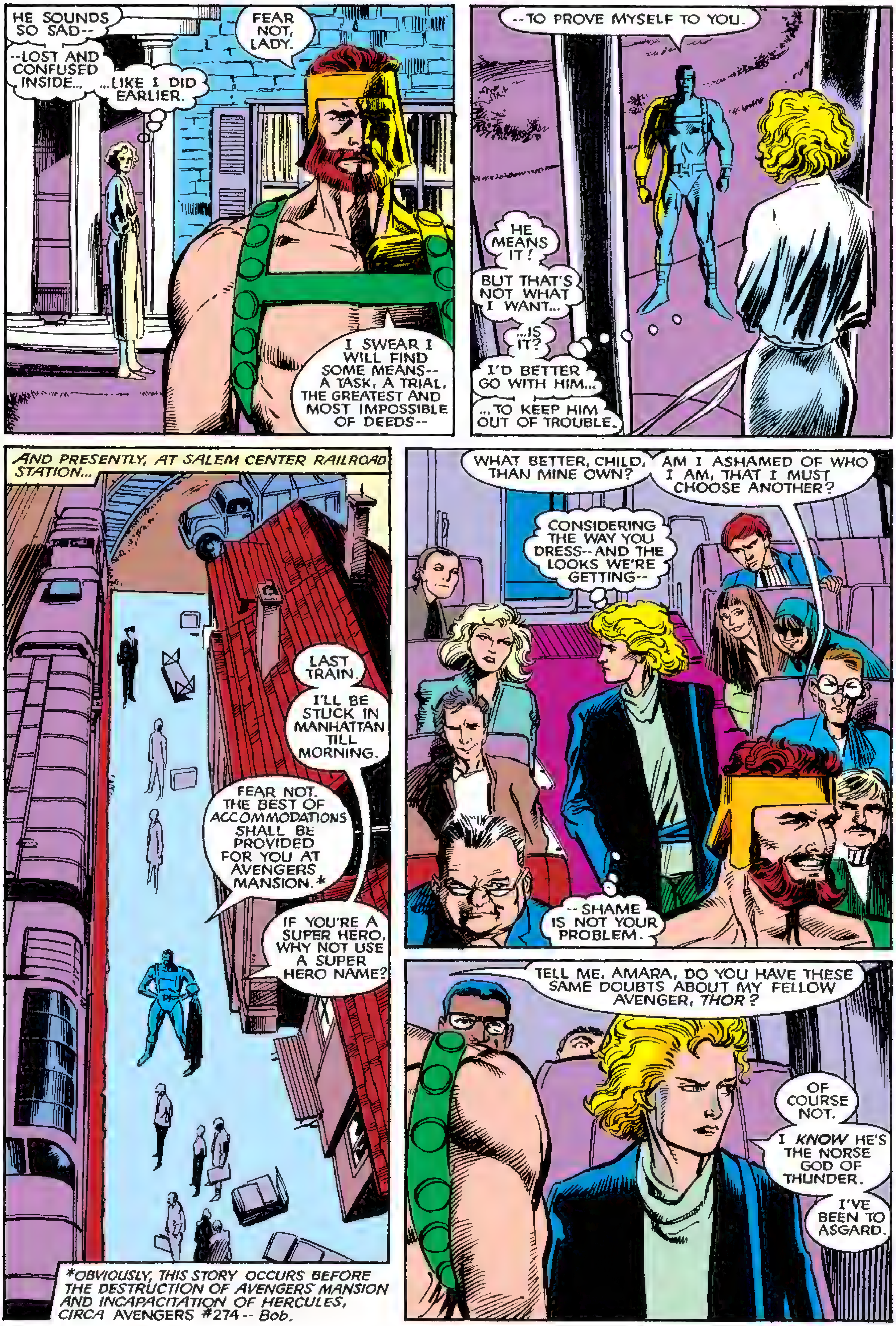

‹ I NEVER DREAMED. ›
‹ I DARED NOT EVEN HOPE! ›
‹ I'FAITH, CHILD, THAT IS WHY... ›
‹ ...I WAS SENT TO THEE. ›
‹ MAY I TURN ON A LAMP, MY LORD, THE BETTER TO SEE... ›
...YOU!?!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN!*
KLIK!
DECEIVER-- YOU ARE *NOT* HERCULES!
YOU PREFER THE ENGLISH SPEECH? AS YOU WILL.
BUT I *AM* HE, FAIR DAMSEL.
HOW CAN YOU DOUBT ME?
EASILY.
YOU WERE THE STAR OF THAT FILM WE SAW TONIGHT!
ONE OF MY FINER THESPIC MOMENTS...
...NOT TO MENTION MY MOST GLORIOUS OF ADVENTURES.
I *KNEW* IT! YOU'RE A FAKE, A LOUSY *ACTOR!*
THE OTHERS PUT YOU UP TO THIS DIDN'T THEY--
--TO MAKE FUN OF ME?!
DEAR CHILD--!
SHUT UP!
I WOULDN'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAID, ANYWAY.
EVERYBODY *UP!* OUT OF BED, YOU TOADS!
I'M ANGRY! I'M GOOD AND ANGRY!! I'M STEAMING!!!
BAM BAM
I WANT ANSWERS-- OR ELSE!!!!

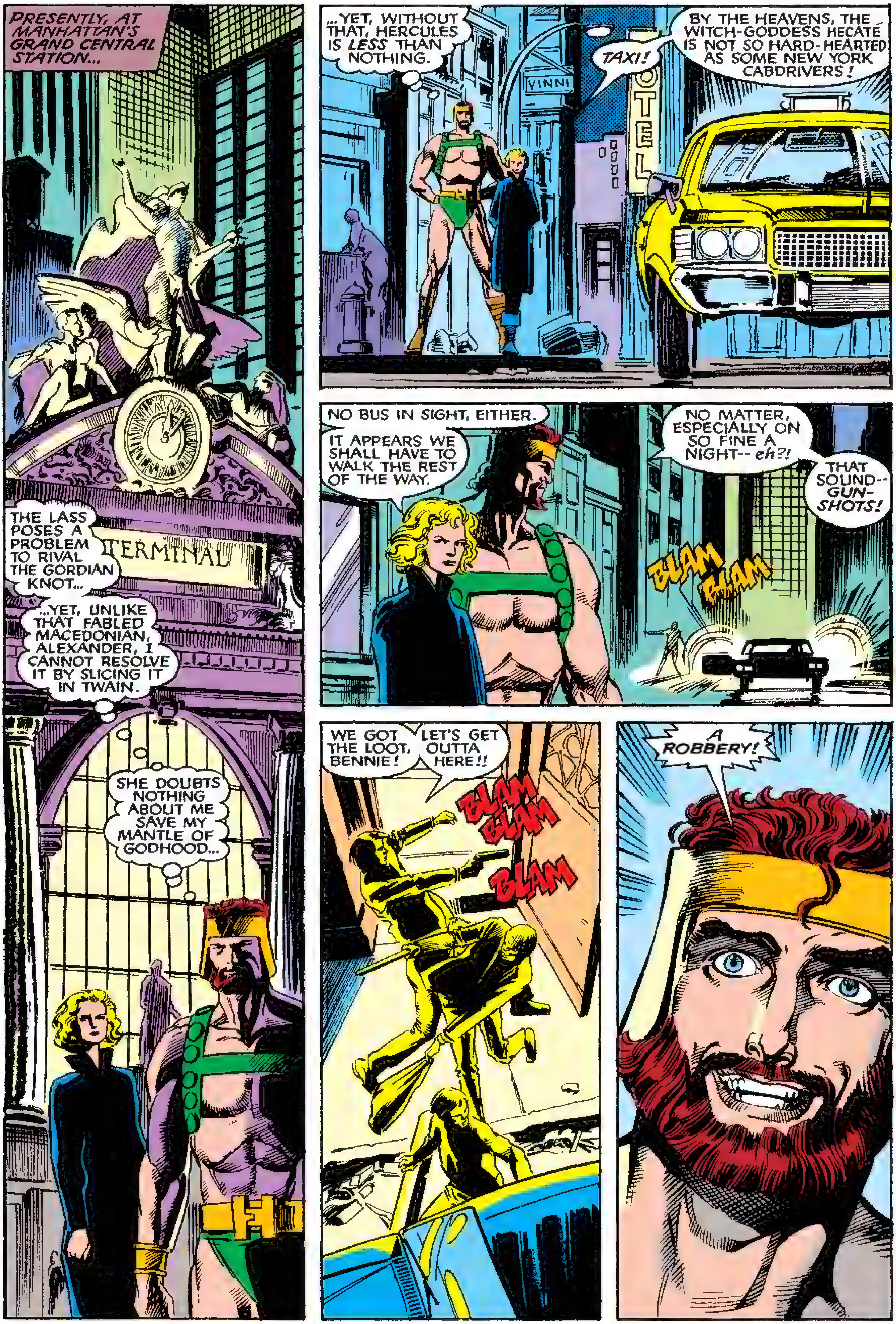

WHAT'S UP?
WHO'S THE HUNK?
HEY, ISN'T HE--?!
SURE LOOKS LIKE--!
I AM **HERCULES!**
IT *IS* HIM!
THE JERK FROM THE MOVIE!
Ahem!
YOUR MOST FAIR COMRADE, THE LADY AMARA--SUFFERING A CRISIS OF FAITH--PRAYED TO THE FATHER OF OLYMPUS. JOVE CHOSE TO REPLY THROUGH ME, HIS FAVORITE SON!
TALK ABOUT METHOD ACTING...
...AND OVER-IDENTIFYING WITH YOUR PART.
NOT TO MENTION THE *UGLIEST* OF COSTUMES.
I DON'T GET IT, AMARA.
FOR THIS, YOU ROUSTED US?!
JOKE'S OVER, DANI.
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN. NOW YOU CAN ALL LAUGH.
YOU THINK *WE'RE* RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?!
WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION COULD THERE BE?
HONEST, AMY--WE'RE AS MYSTIFIED AS YOU.
INCREDIBLE. DO YOU NOT BELIEVE I AM WHO I SAY?!
VERILY, THEN, I SHALL *PROVE* MY BONAFIDES--
--THUSLY!

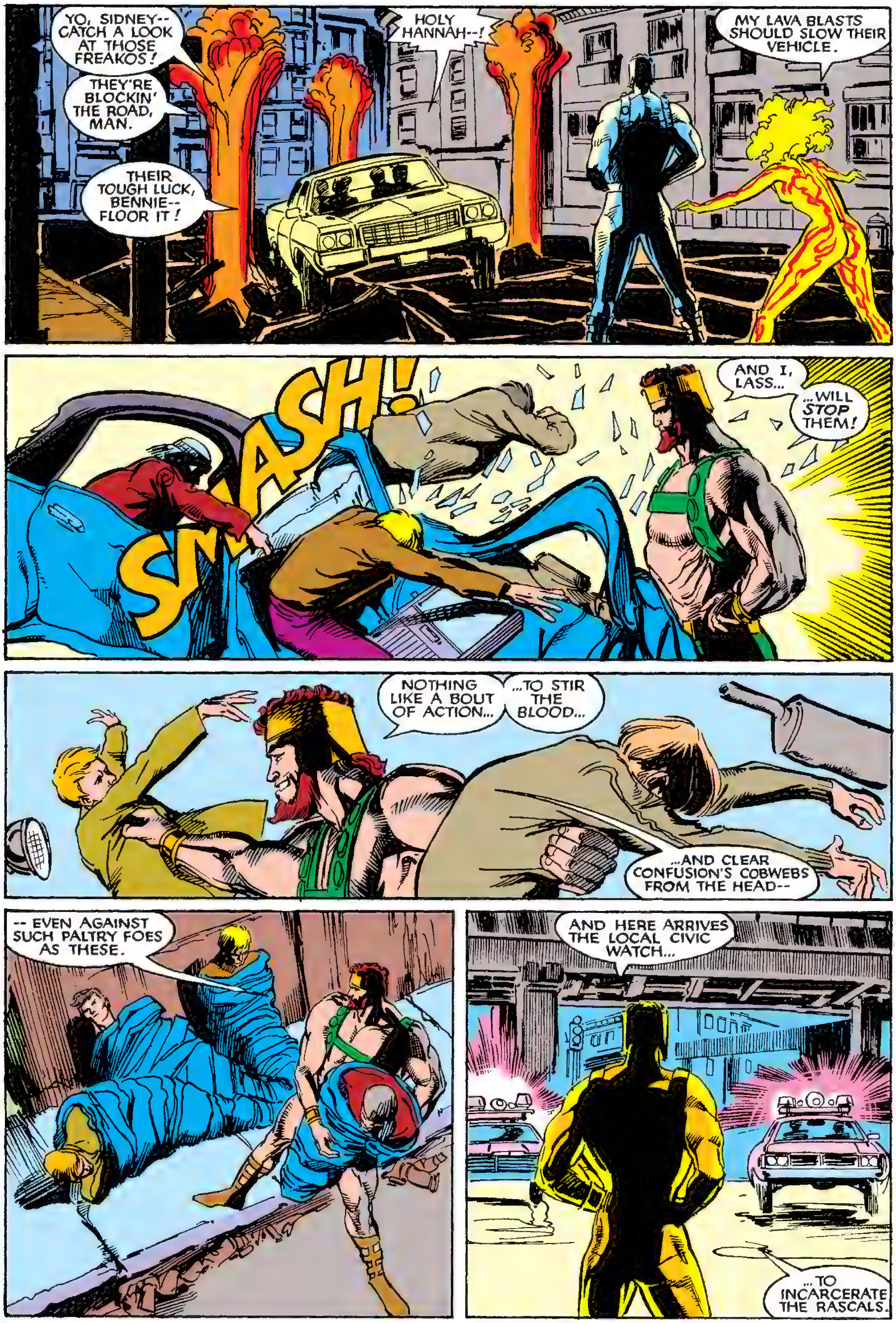

THAT PROVES *NOTHING*.
SUNSPOT CAN LIFT THAT CAR AS EASILY...
...WITH HIS SOLAR-FUELED STRENGTH.
A TRUE CHALLENGE, IT APPEARS, TO CONVINCE YOU DOUBTERS OF THE TRUTH.
AND, AS EVER...
...HERCULES SHALL RISE TO IT!
WATCH, CHILDREN, AS MY MACE SHATTERS YON BOULDER TO POWDER!
SHOOT, SIR--*AH* CAN DO THAT.
"CANNONBALL" THROUGH THE AIR--
--FASTER'N YOU CAN THROW--
--DO THE JOB...
SKBAM!
...AN' BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
ZOUNDS!
CAN ANY MORTAL...
...LEAP SO HIGH?
Whup-a- Whup-a...
ZOUNDS!!
...SELF CAN ACHIEVE ANY ALTITUDE DESIRED...
... AND MAINTAIN IT INDEFINITELY.

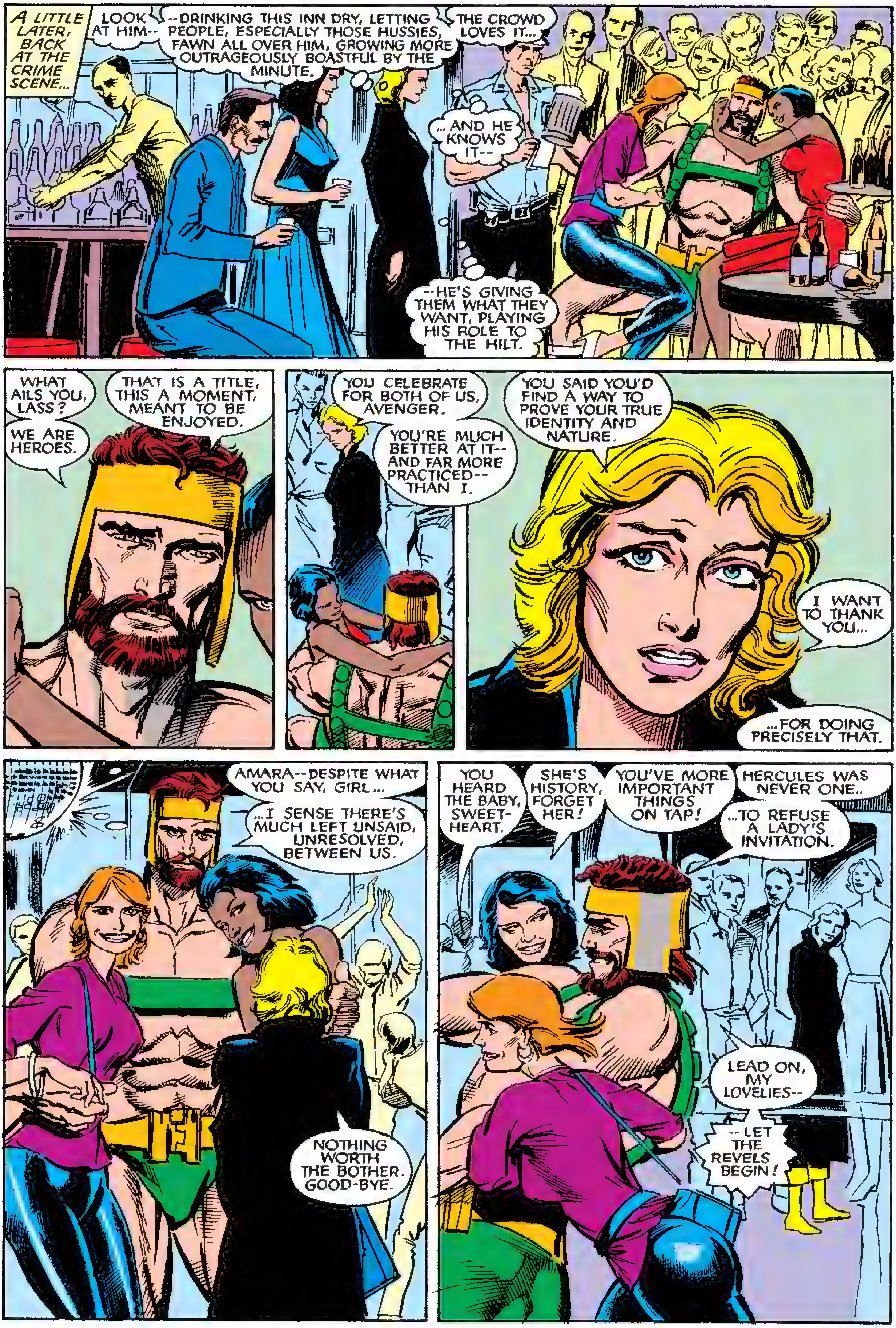

CAN YOU, BRAGGART, WIELD THE FIRES OF MOTHER EARTH HERSELF?
BEHOLD, AS MAGMA RESHAPES THIS MOLTEN LAVA...
...INTO AN IMAGE OF THE *TRUE* HERCULES!
WARRIOR AND HERO *WORTH* THE NAME!
AYE-- SUCH WAS I PORTRAYED--
--IN ANCIENT DAYS.
WE ARE *MUTANTS*...
...BORN WITH OUR SPECIAL POWERS.
LITTLE DIFFERENT, I SUSPECT, FROM YOU--
--A SUPER-BEING WHO'S BORROWED HERCULES' NAME--
--AND SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF FOR DOING SO!
BY MY TROTH--
--I HAVE STOOD *ENOUGH!*
YOU WILL SING A DIFFERENT TUNE, GIRL...
...WHEN YOU BEHOLD THE MARBLE HALLS OF OLYMPUS-- *eh?!*
NOTHING HAPPENED.
FATHER--
--HEAR YOUR SON'S CALL--
--CARRY ME AND THESE UNBELIEVERS TO YOUR PALACE!
GIGGLE
SNICKER
SNORT
GUFFAW
HA HA
HO HO
tee hee

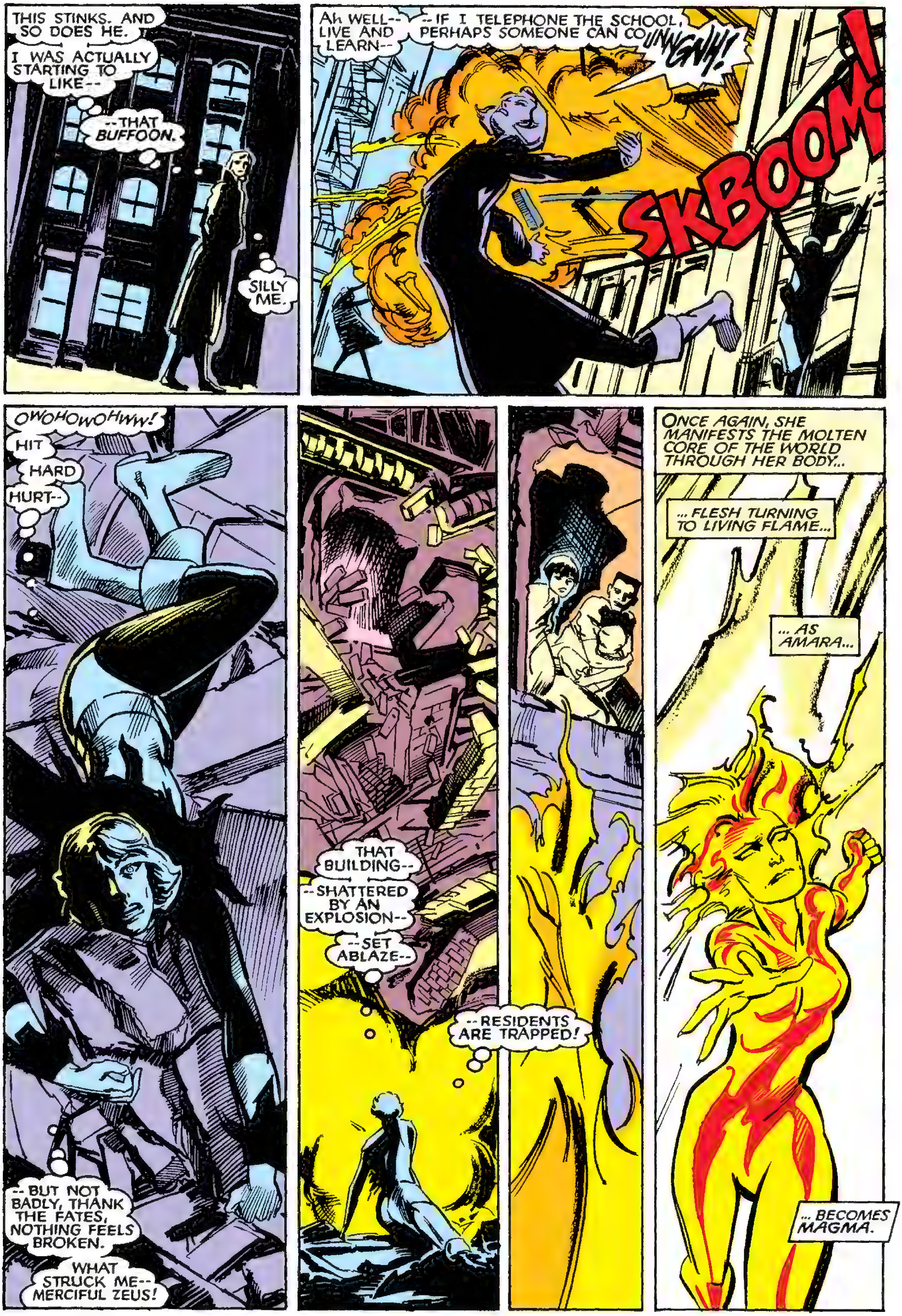

AND THAT LAUGHTER IS ECHOED FAR FROM SALEM CENTER, FAR INDEED FROM THE EARTHLY PLANE OF REALITY-- HIGH ATOP THAT MOUNTAIN OF LEGEND, WHICH IS THE HOME OF FABLED OLYMPUS...
NO MATTER HOW LOUDLY YOU CALL, MY WAYWARD SON...
...I SHALL NOT ANSWER.
BY TARTARUS, NEVER HAVE I WITNESSED SO RICH A JEST, SO DELIGHTFUL A MOMENT.
TO SEE THAT ARROGANT KNAVE BROUGHT LOW-- THE LOOK ON HIS FACE ALONE IS BEYOND PRICE!
BUT MY LORD ZEUS-- WHY DO YOU MOCK HERCULES?!
BETTER, APOLLO, TO ASK WHY HE CHOSE TO MOCK US OF OLYMPUS WITH THAT TRAVESTY OF AN ENTERTAINMENT!
IT IS PAST TIME HE LEARNED...
...THAT GODS HAVE NEED OF THE FAITH OF MORTALS...
... AS MUCH AS THEY DO OF US.
SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
"IF THE LADY AMARA-- WHO TRULY BELIEVED IN US-- HAS LOST THAT FAITH, IN PART BECAUSE OF MY SON'S FOOLISHNESS...
"... ALL OLYMPUS WILL PAY THE PRICE."
FATHER--
-- I CAME HERE AT YOUR WILL--
--WHY NOW HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?
SHOW'S OVER, BOYS AND GIRLS. EVERYBODY BACK TO BED

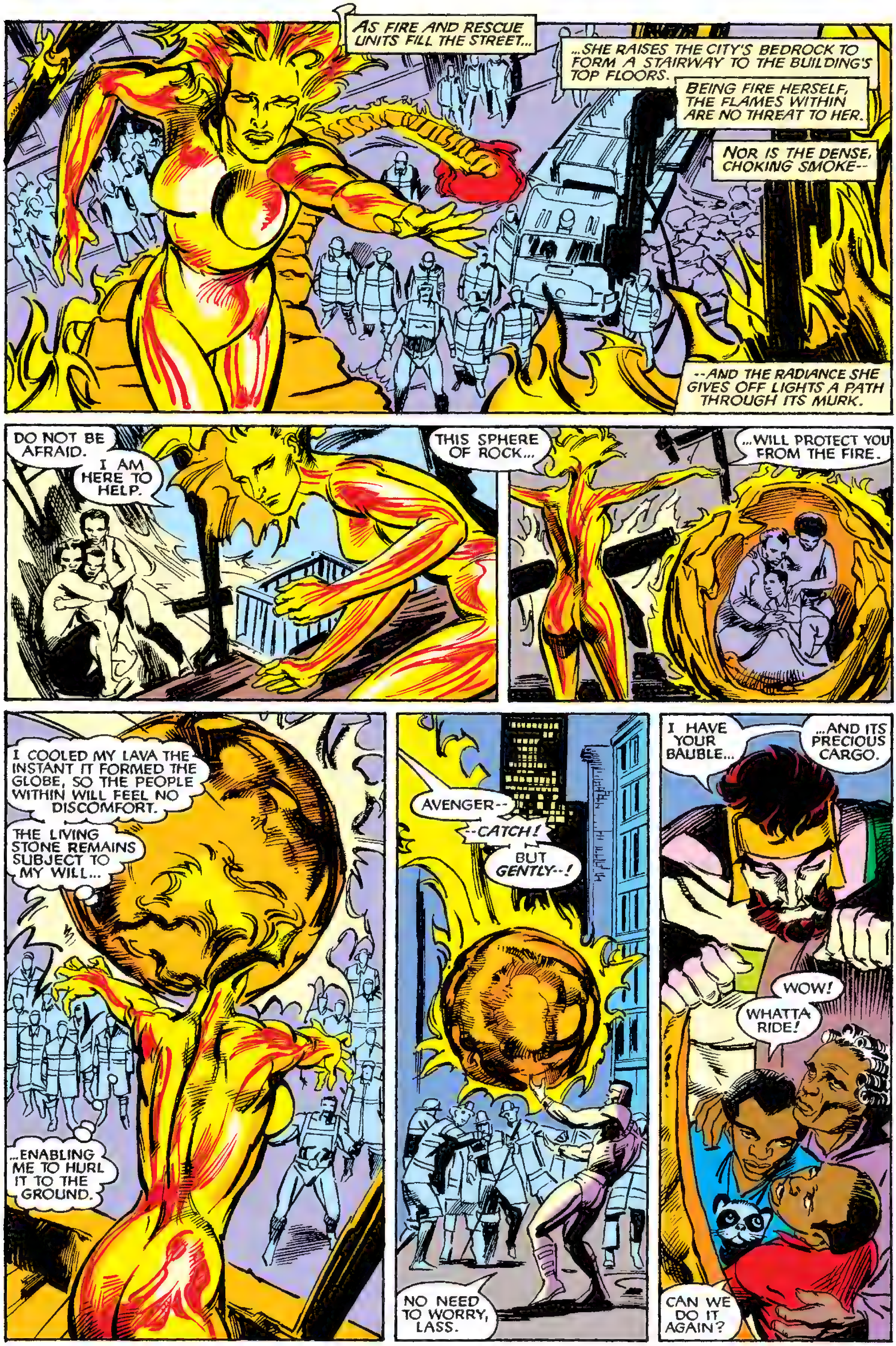

HE SOUNDS SO SAD--
--LOST AND CONFUSED INSIDE...
...LIKE I DID EARLIER.
FEAR NOT, LADY.
I SWEAR I WILL FIND SOME MEANS-- A TASK, A TRIAL, THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPOSSIBLE OF DEEDS--
--TO PROVE MYSELF TO YOU.
HE MEANS IT!
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT...
...IS IT?
I'D BETTER GO WITH HIM...
...TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.
AND PRESENTLY, AT SALEM CENTER RAILROAD STATION...
LAST TRAIN.
I'LL BE STUCK IN MANHATTAN TILL MORNING.
FEAR NOT. THE BEST OF ACCOMMODATIONS SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU AT AVENGERS MANSION.*
IF YOU'RE A SUPER HERO, WHY NOT USE A SUPER HERO NAME?
*OBVIOUSLY, THIS STORY OCCURS BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF AVENGERS MANSION AND INCAPACITATION OF HERCULES, CIRCA AVENGERS #274 -- Bob.
WHAT BETTER, CHILD, THAN MINE OWN?
AM I ASHAMED OF WHO I AM, THAT I MUST CHOOSE ANOTHER?
CONSIDERING THE WAY YOU DRESS-- AND THE LOOKS WE'RE GETTING--
--SHAME IS NOT YOUR PROBLEM.
TELL ME, AMARA, DO YOU HAVE THESE SAME DOUBTS ABOUT MY FELLOW AVENGER, THOR?
OF COURSE NOT.
I KNOW HE'S THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER.
I'VE BEEN TO ASGARD.

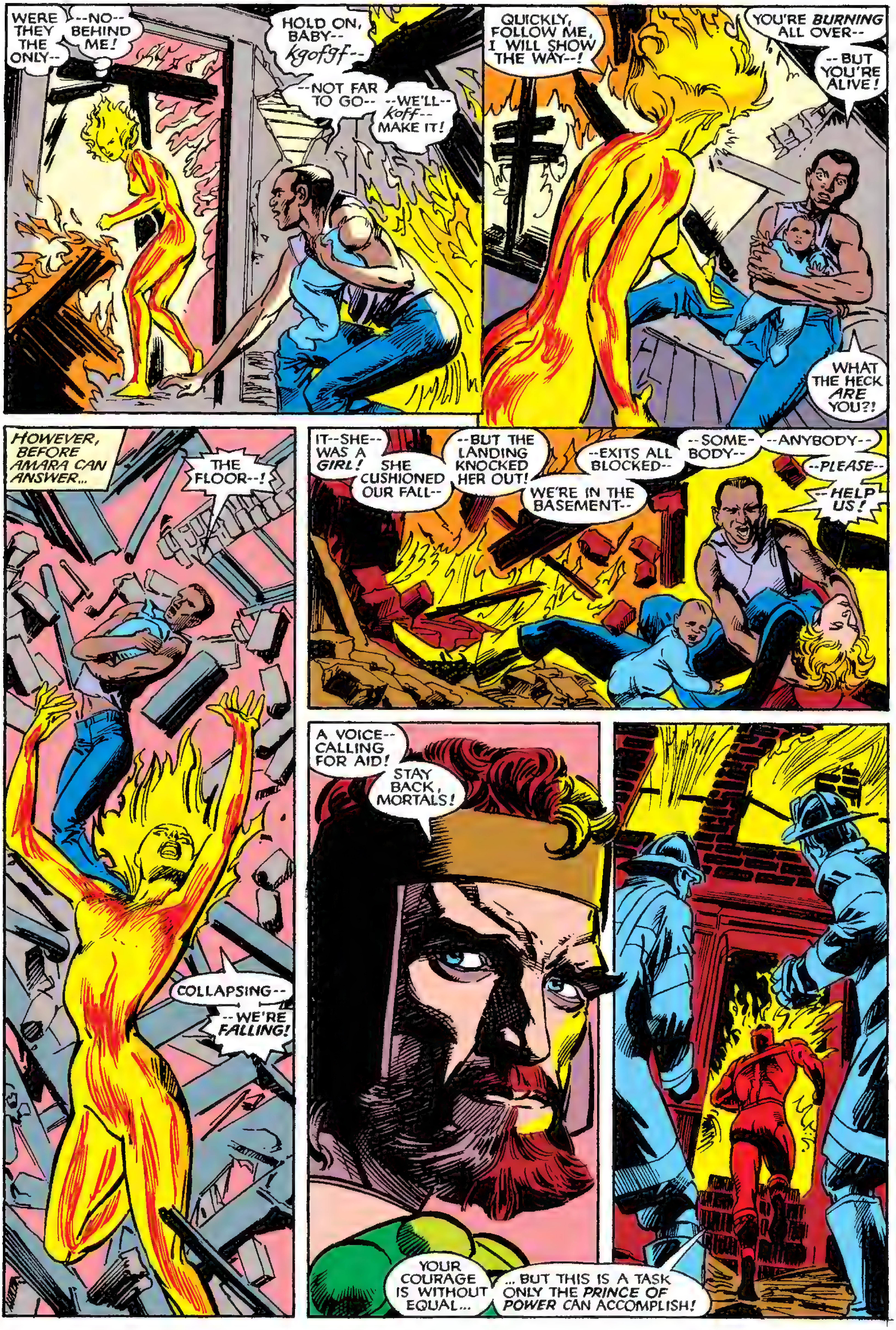

PRESENTLY, AT MANHATTAN'S GRAND CENTRAL STATION...
TERMINAL
THE LASS POSES A PROBLEM TO RIVAL THE GORDIAN KNOT...
...YET, UNLIKE THAT FABLED MACEDONIAN, ALEXANDER, I CANNOT RESOLVE IT BY SLICING IT IN TWAIN.
SHE DOUBTS NOTHING ABOUT ME SAVE MY MANTLE OF GODHOOD...
...YET, WITHOUT THAT, HERCULES IS *LESS* THAN NOTHING.
VINNI
OTEL
TAXI!
BY THE HEAVENS, THE WITCH-GODDESS HECATE IS NOT SO HARD-HEARTED AS SOME NEW YORK CABDRIVERS!
NO BUS IN SIGHT, EITHER.
IT APPEARS WE SHALL HAVE TO WALK THE REST OF THE WAY.
NO MATTER, ESPECIALLY ON SO FINE A NIGHT-- *eh?!*
THAT SOUND-- *GUN-SHOTS!*
BLAM BLAM
WE GOT THE LOOT, BENNIE!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
A ROBBERY!

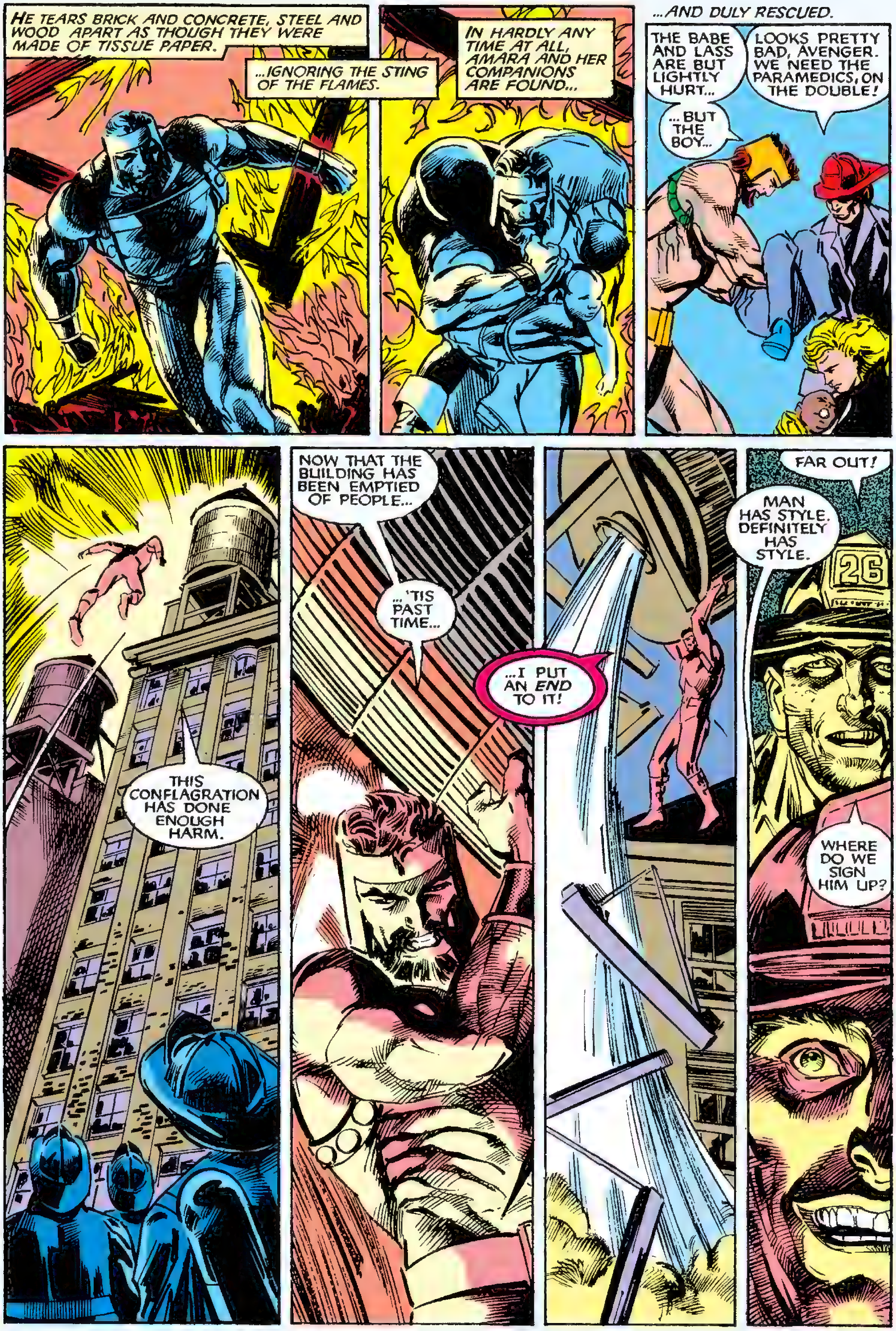

YO, SIDNEY-- CATCH A LOOK AT THOSE FREAKOS!
THEY'RE BLOCKIN' THE ROAD, MAN.
THEIR TOUGH LUCK, BENNIE-- FLOOR IT!
HOLY HANNAH--!
MY LAVA BLASTS SHOULD SLOW THEIR VEHICLE.
SMASH!
AND I, LASS...
...WILL STOP THEM!
NOTHING LIKE A BOUT OF ACTION...
...TO STIR THE BLOOD...
...AND CLEAR CONFUSION'S COBWEBS FROM THE HEAD--
-- EVEN AGAINST SUCH PALTRY FOES AS THESE.
AND HERE ARRIVES THE LOCAL CIVIC WATCH...
...TO INCARCERATE THE RASCALS.

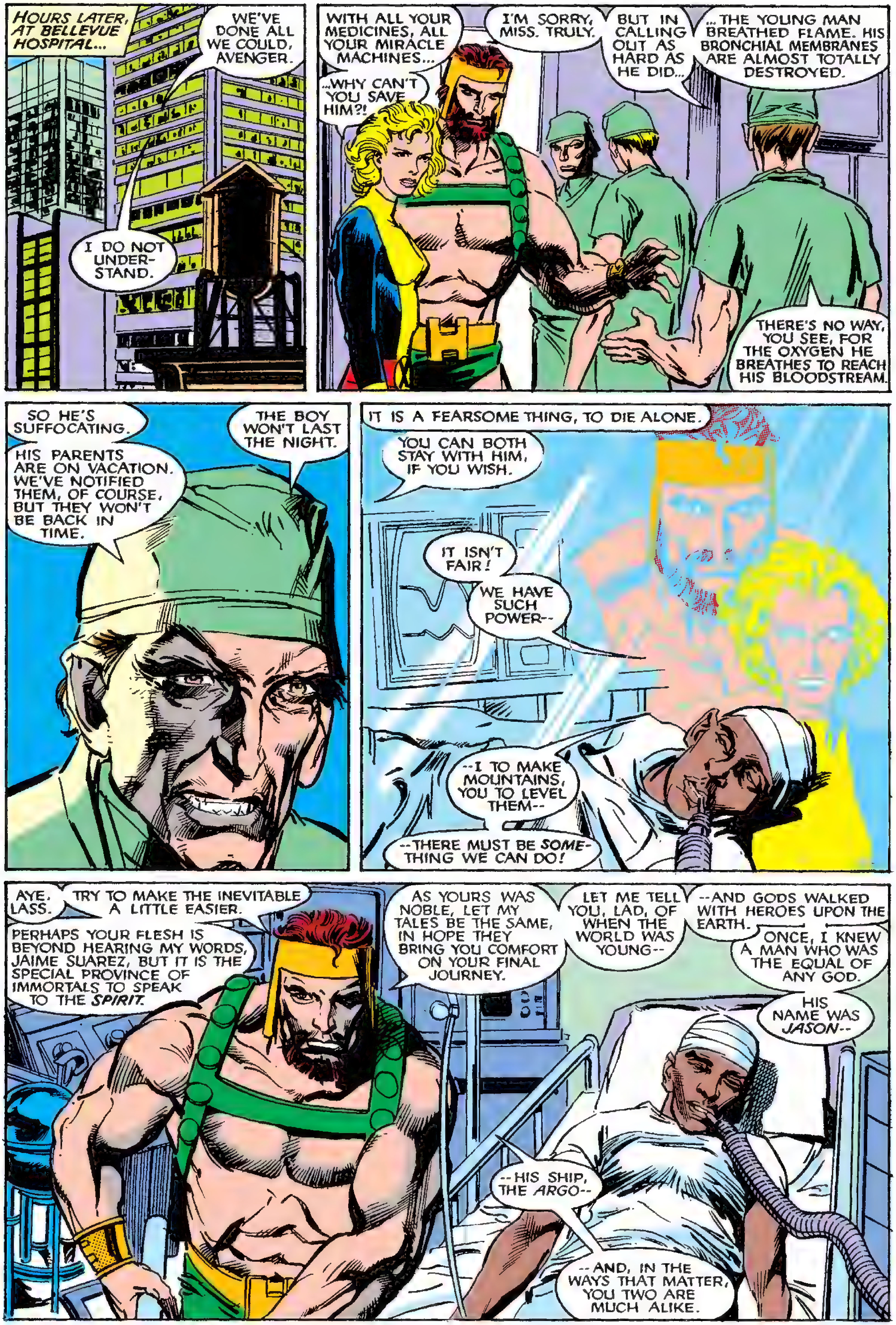

A LITTLE LATER, BACK AT THE CRIME SCENE...
LOOK AT HIM--
--DRINKING THIS INN DRY, LETTING PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE HUSSIES, FAWN ALL OVER HIM, GROWING MORE OUTRAGEOUSLY BOASTFUL BY THE MINUTE.
THE CROWD LOVES IT...
...AND HE KNOWS IT--
--HE'S GIVING THEM WHAT THEY WANT, PLAYING HIS ROLE TO THE HILT.
WHAT AILS YOU, LASS?
WE ARE HEROES.
THAT IS A TITLE, THIS A MOMENT, MEANT TO BE ENJOYED.
YOU CELEBRATE FOR BOTH OF US, AVENGER.
YOU'RE MUCH BETTER AT IT--AND FAR MORE PRACTICED--THAN I.
YOU SAID YOU'D FIND A WAY TO PROVE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY AND NATURE.
I WANT TO THANK YOU...
...FOR DOING PRECISELY THAT.
AMARA--DESPITE WHAT YOU SAY, GIRL...
...I SENSE THERE'S MUCH LEFT UNSAID, UNRESOLVED, BETWEEN US.
NOTHING WORTH THE BOTHER. GOOD-BYE.
YOU HEARD THE BABY, SWEETHEART.
SHE'S HISTORY, FORGET HER!
YOU'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON TAP!
HERCULES WAS NEVER ONE..
...TO REFUSE A LADY'S INVITATION.
LEAD ON, MY LOVELIES--
--LET THE REVELS BEGIN!

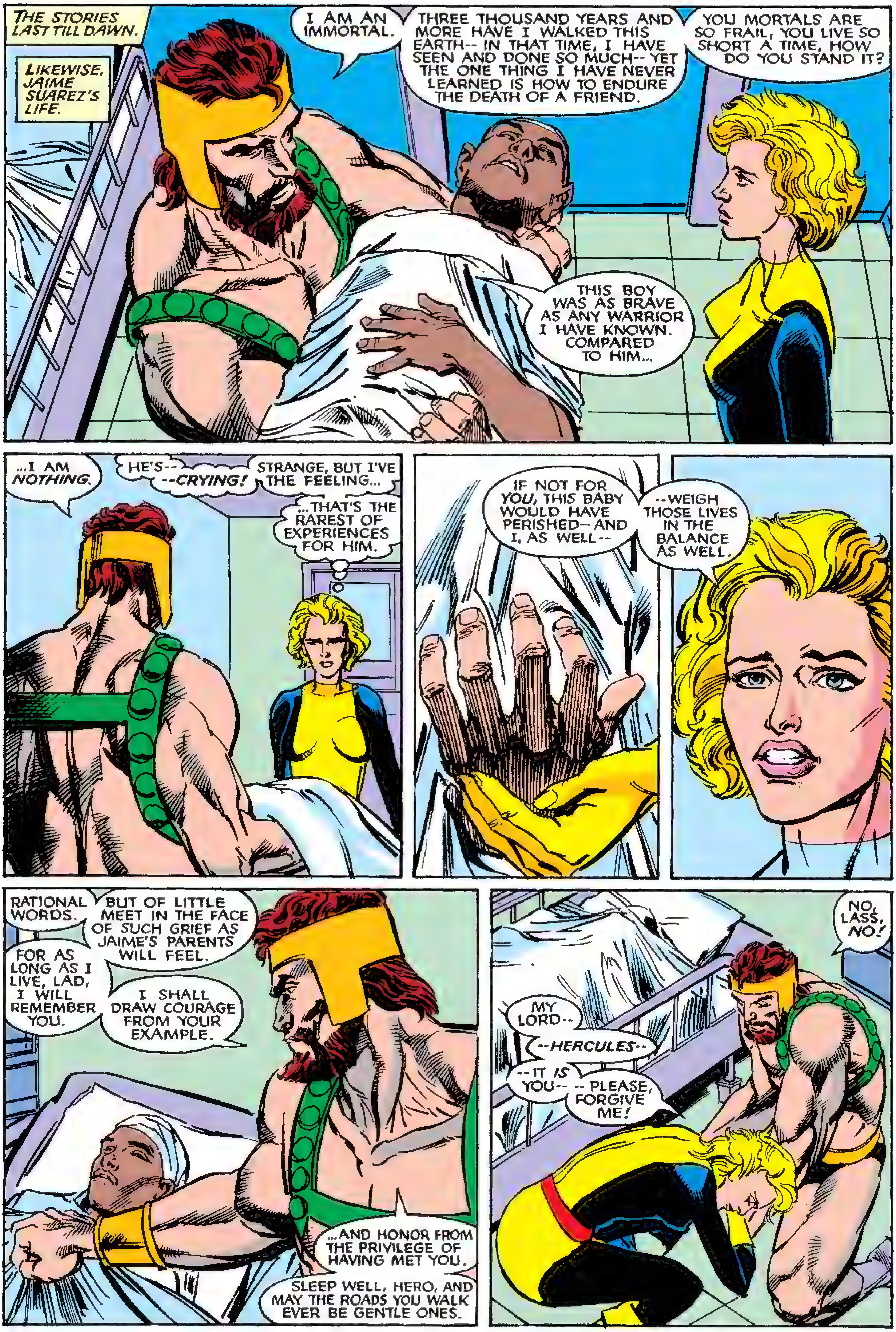

THIS STINKS. AND SO DOES HE.
I WAS ACTUALLY STARTING TO LIKE--
--THAT *BUFFOON.*
SILLY ME.
Ah WELL-- LIVE AND LEARN--
--IF I TELEPHONE THE SCHOOL, PERHAPS SOMEONE CAN CO*UNNGNH!*
SKBOOM!
OWOHOWOHWW!
HIT
HARD
HURT--
-- BUT NOT BADLY, THANK THE FATES, NOTHING FEELS BROKEN.
WHAT STRUCK ME-- MERCIFUL ZEUS!
THAT BUILDING--
--SHATTERED BY AN EXPLOSION--
--SET ABLAZE--
--RESIDENTS ARE TRAPPED!
ONCE AGAIN, SHE MANIFESTS THE MOLTEN CORE OF THE WORLD THROUGH HER BODY...
... FLESH TURNING TO LIVING FLAME...
... AS AMARA...
... BECOMES MAGMA.

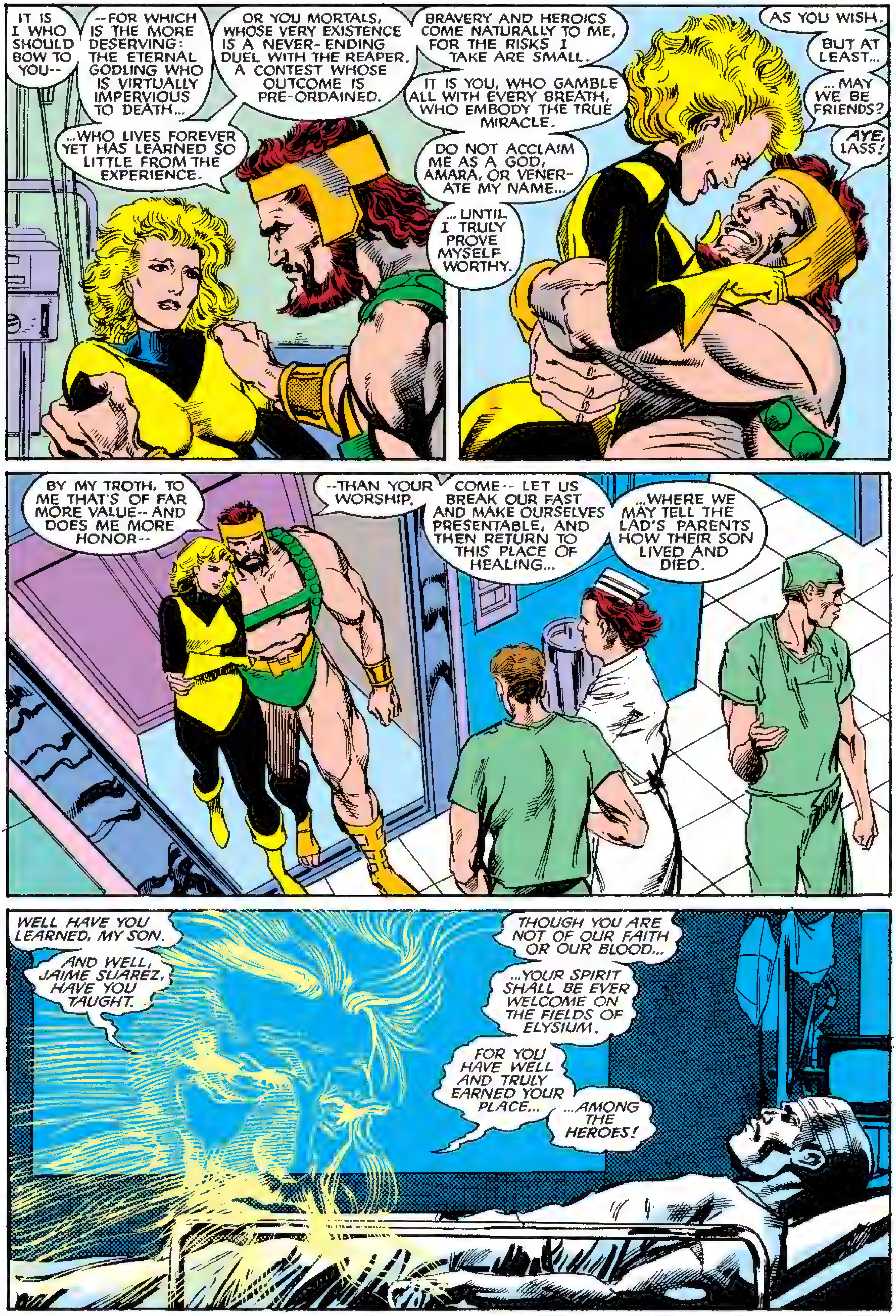

AS FIRE AND RESCUE UNITS FILL THE STREET...
...SHE RAISES THE CITY'S BEDROCK TO FORM A STAIRWAY TO THE BUILDING'S TOP FLOORS.
BEING FIRE HERSELF, THE FLAMES WITHIN ARE NO THREAT TO HER.
NOR IS THE DENSE, CHOKING SMOKE--
--AND THE RADIANCE SHE GIVES OFF LIGHTS A PATH THROUGH ITS MURK.
DO NOT BE AFRAID.
I AM HERE TO HELP.
THIS SPHERE OF ROCK...
...WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THE FIRE.
I COOLED MY LAVA THE INSTANT IT FORMED THE GLOBE, SO THE PEOPLE WITHIN WILL FEEL NO DISCOMFORT.
THE LIVING STONE REMAINS SUBJECT TO MY WILL...
...ENABLING ME TO HURL IT TO THE GROUND.
AVENGER--
--CATCH!
BUT GENTLY--!
NO NEED TO WORRY, LASS.
I HAVE YOUR BAUBLE...
...AND ITS PRECIOUS CARGO.
WOW!
WHATTA RIDE!
CAN WE DO IT AGAIN?

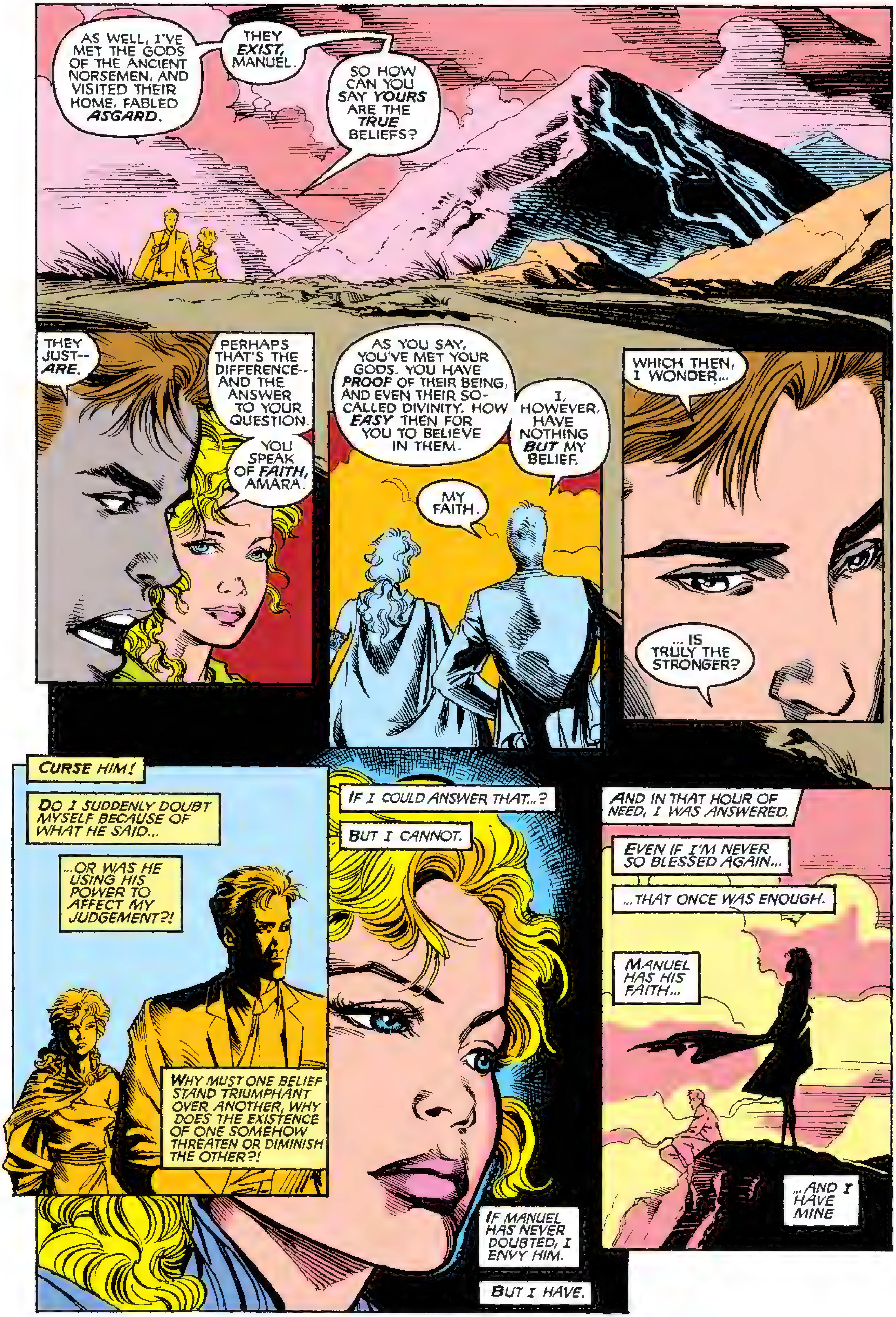

WERE THEY THE ONLY--
--NO--BEHIND ME!
HOLD ON, BABY-- kgofgf--
--NOT FAR TO GO--
--WE'LL-- koff-- MAKE IT!
QUICKLY, FOLLOW ME, I WILL SHOW THE WAY--!
YOU'RE *BURNING* ALL OVER--
--BUT YOU'RE ALIVE!
WHAT THE HECK *ARE* YOU?!
HOWEVER, BEFORE AMARA CAN ANSWER...
THE FLOOR--!
COLLAPSING--
--WE'RE *FALLING!*
IT--SHE--WAS A *GIRL!*
SHE CUSHIONED OUR FALL--
--BUT THE LANDING KNOCKED HER OUT!
--EXITS ALL BLOCKED--
WE'RE IN THE BASEMENT--
--SOME-BODY--
--ANYBODY--
--*PLEASE*--
--*HELP US!*
A VOICE--CALLING FOR AID!
STAY BACK, MORTALS!
YOUR COURAGE IS WITHOUT EQUAL...
... BUT THIS IS A TASK ONLY THE *PRINCE OF POWER* CAN ACCOMPLISH!


HE TEARS BRICK AND CONCRETE, STEEL AND WOOD APART AS THOUGH THEY WERE MADE OF TISSUE PAPER.
...IGNORING THE STING OF THE FLAMES.
IN HARDLY ANY TIME AT ALL, AMARA AND HER COMPANIONS ARE FOUND...
...AND DULY RESCUED.
THE BABE AND LASS ARE BUT LIGHTLY HURT...
...BUT THE BOY...
LOOKS PRETTY BAD, AVENGER. WE NEED THE PARAMEDICS, ON THE DOUBLE!
THIS CONFLAGRATION HAS DONE ENOUGH HARM.
NOW THAT THE BUILDING HAS BEEN EMPTIED OF PEOPLE...
...'TIS PAST TIME...
...I PUT AN END TO IT!
FAR OUT!
MAN HAS STYLE. DEFINITELY HAS STYLE.
26
WHERE DO WE SIGN HIM UP?


HOURS LATER, AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL...
WE'VE DONE ALL WE COULD, AVENGER.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
WITH ALL YOUR MEDICINES, ALL YOUR MIRACLE MACHINES...
...WHY CAN'T YOU SAVE HIM?!
I'M SORRY, MISS. TRULY.
BUT IN CALLING OUT AS HARD AS HE DID...
...THE YOUNG MAN BREATHED FLAME. HIS BRONCHIAL MEMBRANES ARE ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED.
THERE'S NO WAY, YOU SEE, FOR THE OXYGEN HE BREATHES TO REACH HIS BLOODSTREAM.
SO HE'S SUFFOCATING.
THE BOY WON'T LAST THE NIGHT.
HIS PARENTS ARE ON VACATION. WE'VE NOTIFIED THEM, OF COURSE, BUT THEY WON'T BE BACK IN TIME.
IT IS A FEARSOME THING, TO DIE ALONE.
YOU CAN BOTH STAY WITH HIM, IF YOU WISH.
IT ISN'T FAIR!
WE HAVE SUCH POWER--
--I TO MAKE MOUNTAINS, YOU TO LEVEL THEM--
--THERE MUST BE *SOME*THING WE CAN DO!
AYE, LASS.
TRY TO MAKE THE INEVITABLE A LITTLE EASIER.
PERHAPS YOUR FLESH IS BEYOND HEARING MY WORDS, JAIME SUAREZ, BUT IT IS THE SPECIAL PROVINCE OF IMMORTALS TO SPEAK TO THE *SPIRIT.*
AS YOURS WAS NOBLE, LET MY TALES BE THE SAME, IN HOPE THEY BRING YOU COMFORT ON YOUR FINAL JOURNEY.
LET ME TELL YOU, LAD, OF WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG--
--AND GODS WALKED WITH HEROES UPON THE EARTH.
ONCE, I KNEW A MAN WHO WAS THE EQUAL OF ANY GOD.
HIS NAME WAS *JASON*--
--HIS SHIP, THE *ARGO*--
--AND, IN THE WAYS THAT MATTER, YOU TWO ARE MUCH ALIKE.


THE STORIES LAST TILL DAWN.
LIKEWISE, JAIME SUAREZ'S LIFE.
I AM AN IMMORTAL.
THREE THOUSAND YEARS AND MORE HAVE I WALKED THIS EARTH-- IN THAT TIME, I HAVE SEEN AND DONE SO MUCH-- YET THE ONE THING I HAVE NEVER LEARNED IS HOW TO ENDURE THE DEATH OF A FRIEND.
YOU MORTALS ARE SO FRAIL, YOU LIVE SO SHORT A TIME, HOW DO YOU STAND IT?
THIS BOY WAS AS BRAVE AS ANY WARRIOR I HAVE KNOWN. COMPARED TO HIM...
...I AM *NOTHING.*
HE'S-- *--CRYING!*
STRANGE, BUT I'VE THE FEELING...
...THAT'S THE RAREST OF EXPERIENCES FOR HIM.
IF NOT FOR *YOU,* THIS BABY WOULD HAVE PERISHED-- AND I, AS WELL--
--WEIGH THOSE LIVES IN THE BALANCE AS WELL.
RATIONAL WORDS.
BUT OF LITTLE MEET IN THE FACE OF SUCH GRIEF AS JAIME'S PARENTS WILL FEEL.
FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE, LAD, I WILL REMEMBER YOU.
I SHALL DRAW COURAGE FROM YOUR EXAMPLE.
...AND HONOR FROM THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING MET YOU.
SLEEP WELL, HERO, AND MAY THE ROADS YOU WALK EVER BE GENTLE ONES.
NO, LASS, *NO!*
MY LORD--
--HERCULES--
--IT *IS* YOU--
--PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!


IT IS I WHO SHOULD BOW TO YOU--
--FOR WHICH IS THE MORE DESERVING: THE ETERNAL GODLING WHO IS VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO DEATH...
...WHO LIVES FOREVER YET HAS LEARNED SO LITTLE FROM THE EXPERIENCE.
OR YOU MORTALS, WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS A NEVER-ENDING DUEL WITH THE REAPER. A CONTEST WHOSE OUTCOME IS PRE-ORDAINED.
BRAVERY AND HEROICS COME NATURALLY TO ME, FOR THE RISKS I TAKE ARE SMALL.
IT IS YOU, WHO GAMBLE ALL WITH EVERY BREATH, WHO EMBODY THE TRUE MIRACLE.
DO NOT ACCLAIM ME AS A GOD, AMARA, OR VENERATE MY NAME...
...UNTIL I TRULY PROVE MYSELF WORTHY.
AS YOU WISH.
BUT AT LEAST...
...MAY WE BE FRIENDS?
AYE, LASS!
BY MY TROTH, TO ME THAT'S OF FAR MORE VALUE--AND DOES ME MORE HONOR--
--THAN YOUR WORSHIP.
COME--LET US BREAK OUR FAST AND MAKE OURSELVES PRESENTABLE, AND THEN RETURN TO THIS PLACE OF HEALING...
...WHERE WE MAY TELL THE LAD'S PARENTS HOW THEIR SON LIVED AND DIED.
WELL HAVE YOU LEARNED, MY SON.
AND WELL, JAIME SUAREZ, HAVE YOU TAUGHT.
THOUGH YOU ARE NOT OF OUR FAITH OR OUR BLOOD...
...YOUR SPIRIT SHALL BE EVER WELCOME ON THE FIELDS OF ELYSIUM.
FOR YOU HAVE WELL AND TRULY EARNED YOUR PLACE...
...AMONG THE HEROES!


AS WELL, I'VE MET THE GODS OF THE ANCIENT NORSEMEN, AND VISITED THEIR HOME, FABLED ASGARD.
THEY EXIST, MANUEL.
SO HOW CAN YOU SAY YOURS ARE THE TRUE BELIEFS?
THEY JUST-- ARE.
PERHAPS THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE-- AND THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.
YOU SPEAK OF FAITH, AMARA.
AS YOU SAY, YOU'VE MET YOUR GODS. YOU HAVE PROOF OF THEIR BEING, AND EVEN THEIR SO-CALLED DIVINITY. HOW EASY THEN FOR YOU TO BELIEVE IN THEM.
MY FAITH.
I, HOWEVER, HAVE NOTHING BUT MY BELIEF.
WHICH THEN, I WONDER...
... IS TRULY THE STRONGER?
CURSE HIM!
DO I SUDDENLY DOUBT MYSELF BECAUSE OF WHAT HE SAID...
...OR WAS HE USING HIS POWER TO AFFECT MY JUDGEMENT?!
WHY MUST ONE BELIEF STAND TRIUMPHANT OVER ANOTHER, WHY DOES THE EXISTENCE OF ONE SOMEHOW THREATEN OR DIMINISH THE OTHER?!
IF I COULD ANSWER THAT...?
BUT I CANNOT.
IF MANUEL HAS NEVER DOUBTED, I ENVY HIM.
BUT I HAVE.
AND IN THAT HOUR OF NEED, I WAS ANSWERED.
EVEN IF I'M NEVER SO BLESSED AGAIN...
...THAT ONCE WAS ENOUGH.
MANUEL HAS HIS FAITH...
...AND I HAVE MINE

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MID NOV
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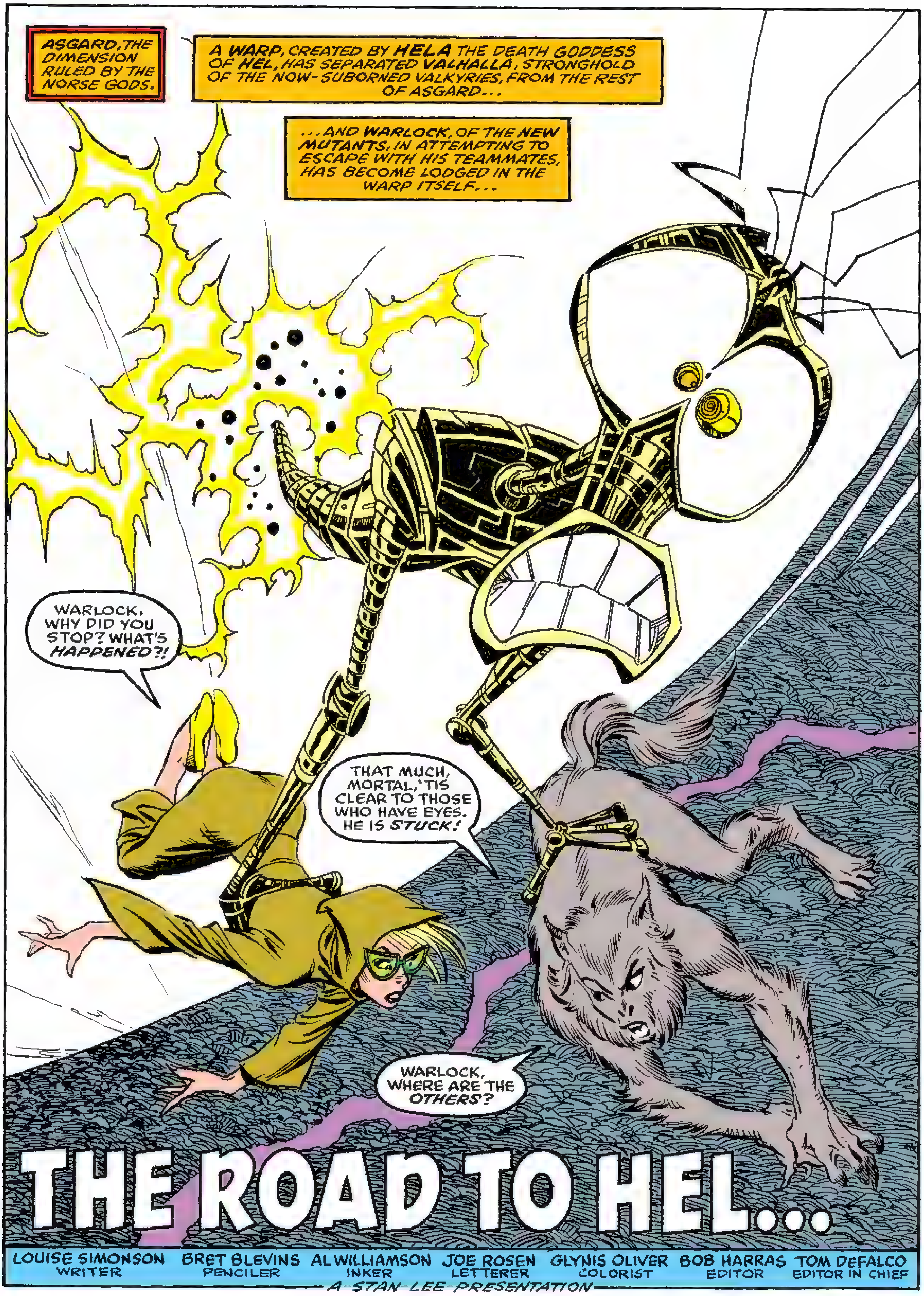
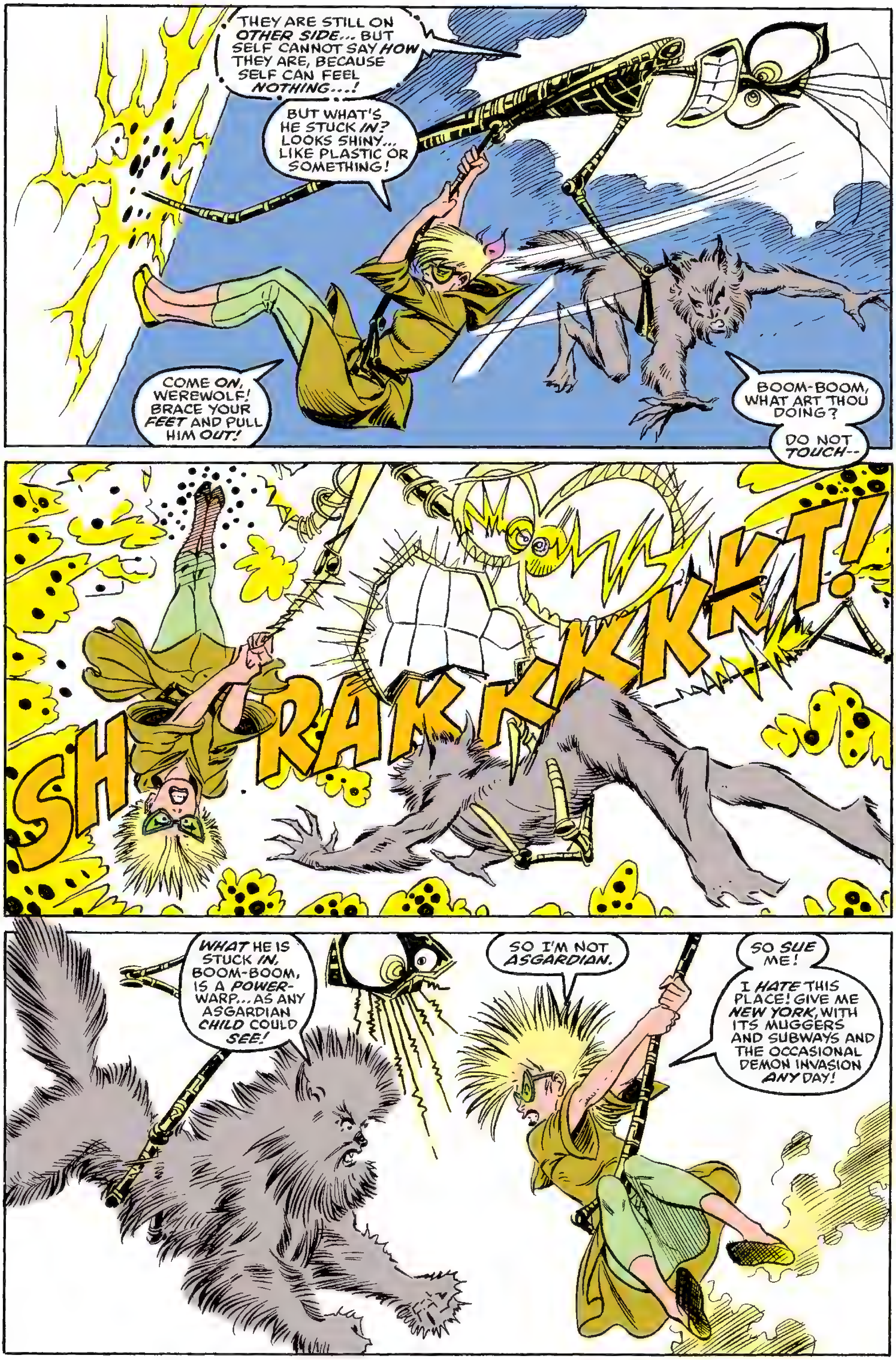
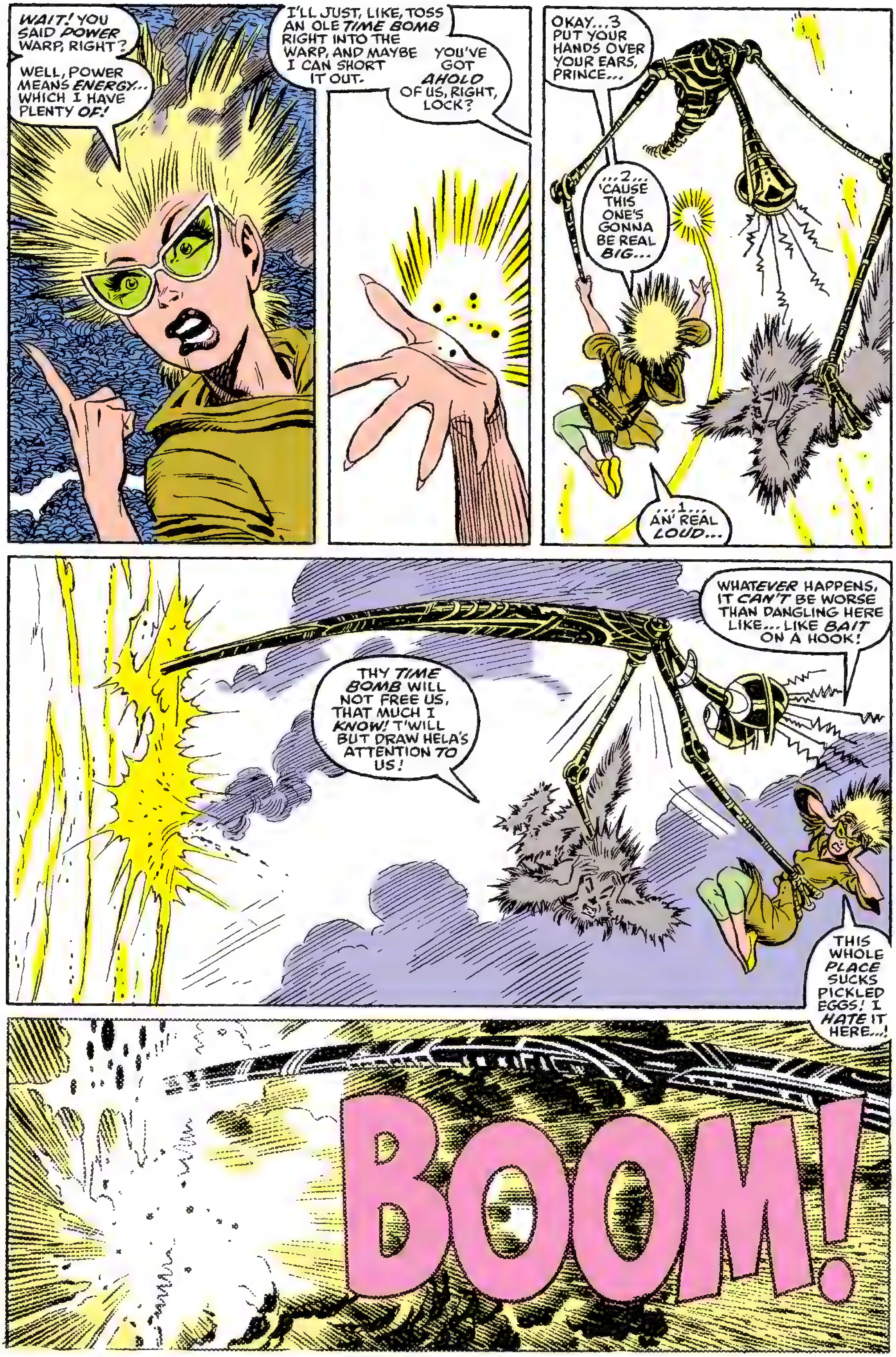
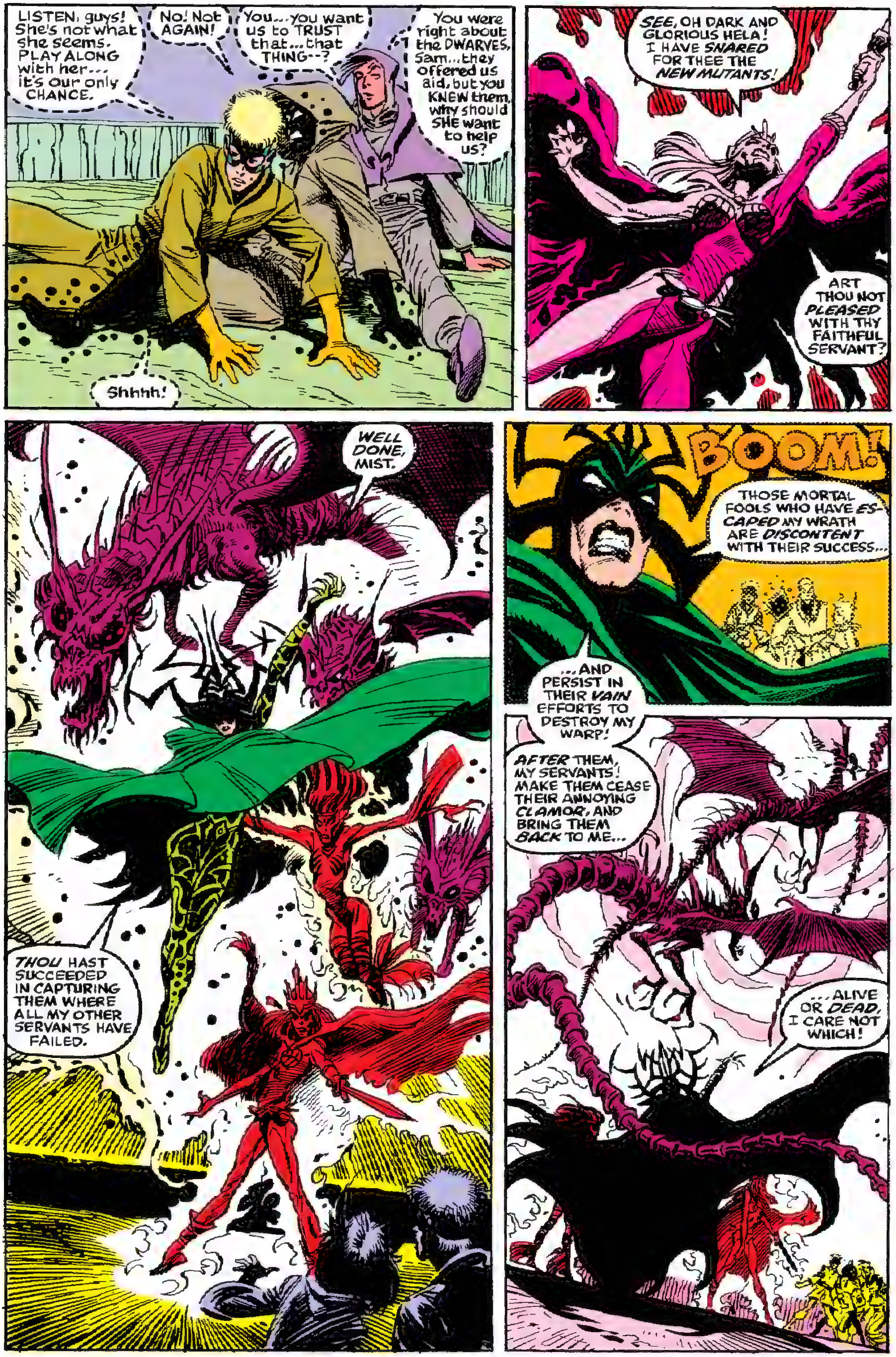
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FACE
GARM,
GUARDIAN OF THE NETHERWORLD!

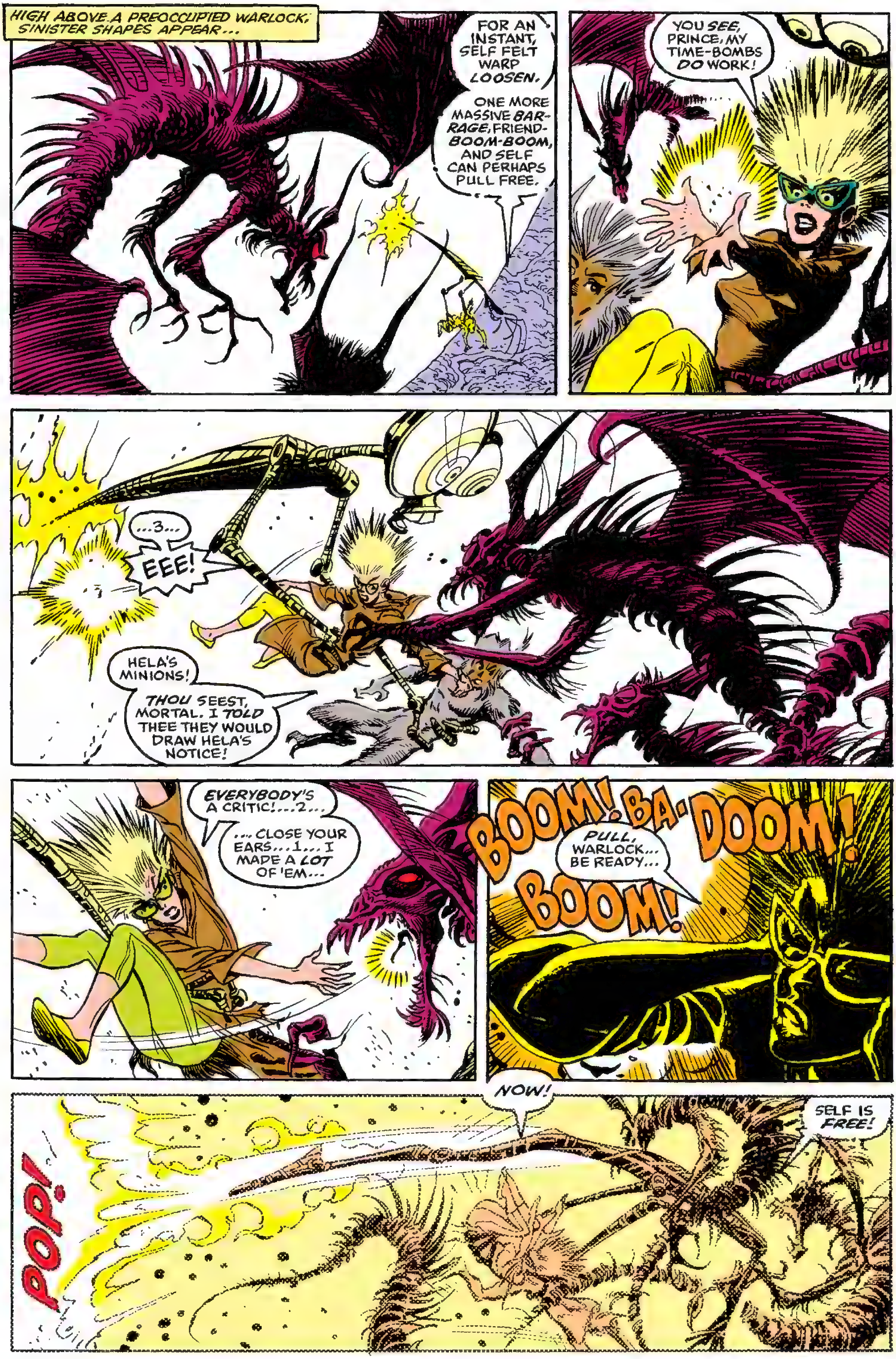

ASGARD, THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE NORSE GODS.
A WARP, CREATED BY HELA THE DEATH GODDESS OF HEL, HAS SEPARATED VALHALLA, STRONGHOLD OF THE NOW-SUBORNED VALKYRIES, FROM THE REST OF ASGARD...
...AND WARLOCK, OF THE NEW MUTANTS, IN ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE WITH HIS TEAMMATES, HAS BECOME LODGED IN THE WARP ITSELF...
WARLOCK, WHY DID YOU STOP? WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
THAT MUCH, MORTAL, 'TIS CLEAR TO THOSE WHO HAVE EYES. HE IS STUCK!
WARLOCK, WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THE ROAD TO HEL...
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
BRET BLEVINS PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
JOE ROSEN LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST
BOB HARRAS EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

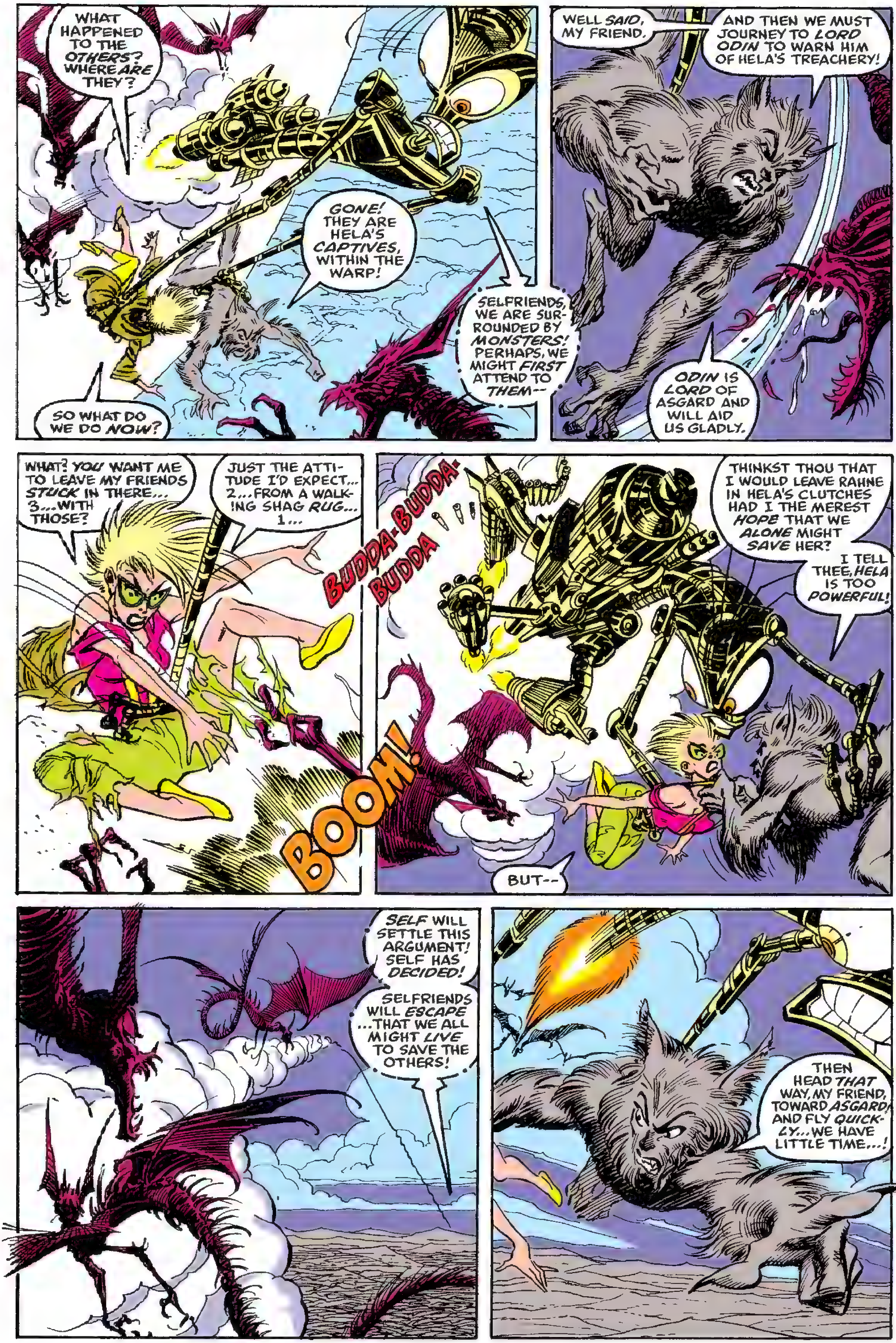

THEY ARE STILL ON *OTHER SIDE*... BUT SELF CANNOT SAY *HOW* THEY ARE, BECAUSE SELF CAN FEEL *NOTHING*...!
BUT WHAT'S HE STUCK *IN?* LOOKS SHINY... LIKE PLASTIC OR SOMETHING!
COME *ON*, WEREWOLF! BRACE YOUR *FEET* AND PULL HIM *OUT!*
BOOM-BOOM, WHAT ART THOU DOING?
DO NOT *TOUCH*--
SHRAKKKKKT!
WHAT HE IS STUCK *IN*, BOOM-BOOM, IS A *POWER-WARP*... AS ANY ASGARDIAN *CHILD* COULD *SEE!*
SO I'M NOT *ASGARDIAN*.
SO *SUE* ME!
I *HATE* THIS PLACE! GIVE ME *NEW YORK*, WITH ITS MUGGERS AND SUBWAYS AND THE OCCASIONAL DEMON INVASION *ANY* DAY!

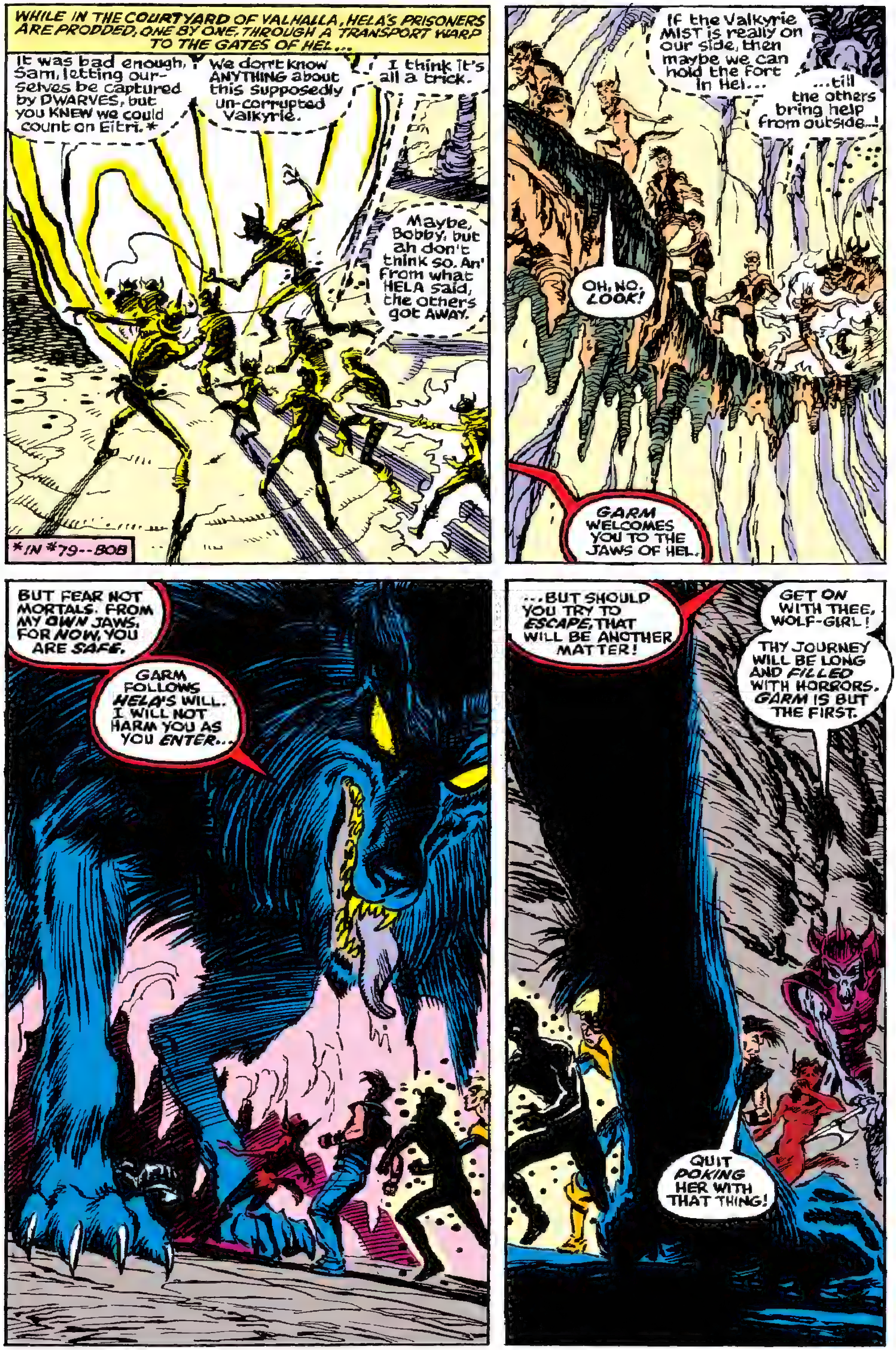

WAIT! YOU SAID POWER WARP, RIGHT?
WELL, POWER MEANS ENERGY... WHICH I HAVE PLENTY OF!
I'LL JUST, LIKE, TOSS AN OLE TIME BOMB RIGHT INTO THE WARP, AND MAYBE I CAN SHORT IT OUT.
YOU'VE GOT AHOLD OF US, RIGHT, LOCK?
OKAY...3 PUT YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR EARS, PRINCE...
...2... 'CAUSE THIS ONE'S GONNA BE REAL BIG...
...1... AN' REAL LOUD...
WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN DANGLING HERE LIKE... LIKE BAIT ON A HOOK!
THY TIME BOMB WILL NOT FREE US, THAT MUCH I KNOW! T'WILL BUT DRAW HELA'S ATTENTION TO US!
THIS WHOLE PLACE SUCKS PICKLED EGGS! I HATE IT HERE...!
BOOM!

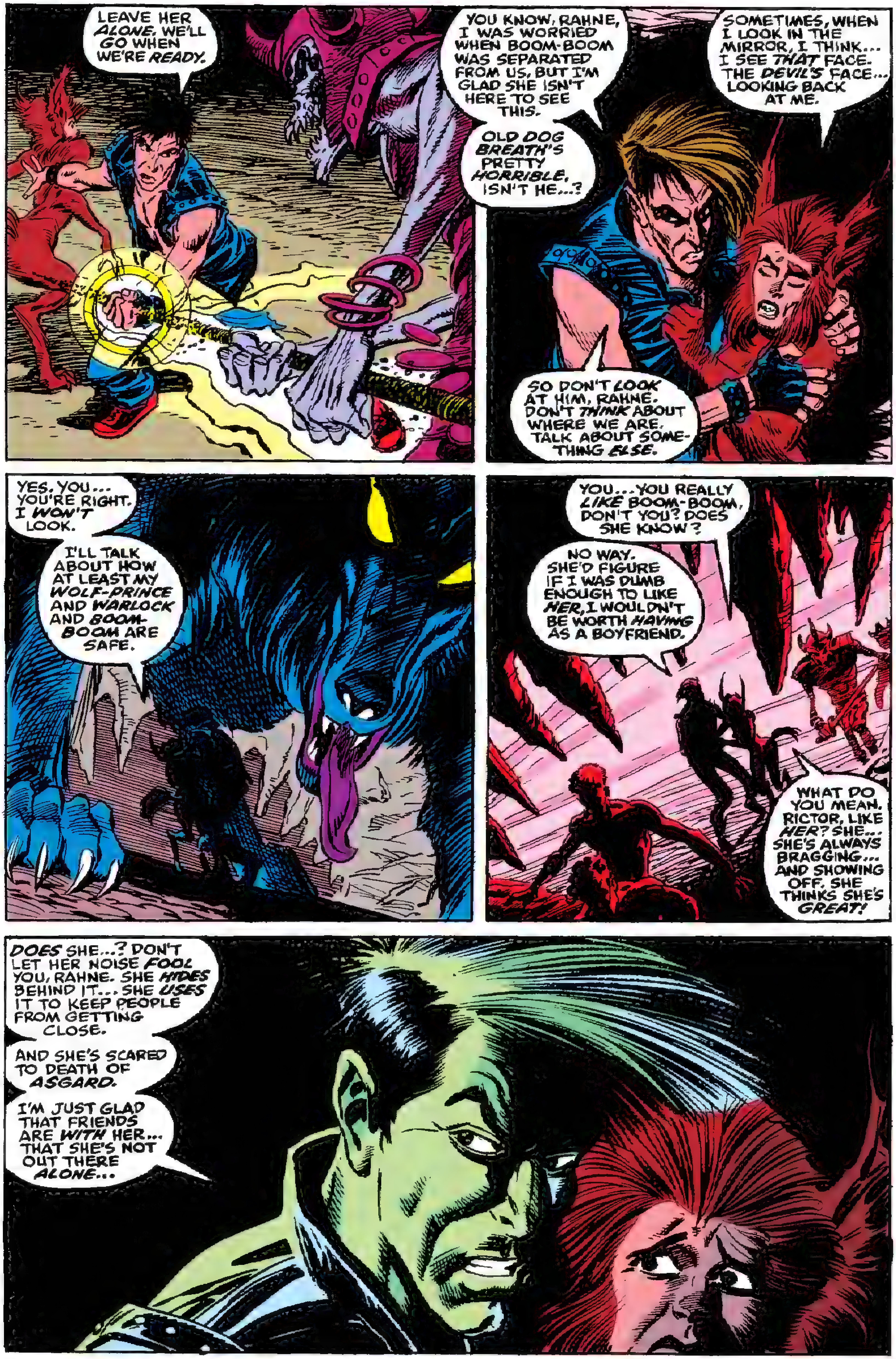
WHILE WITHIN VALHALLA, THE VALKYRIES' STRONGHOLD, RICTOR, SUNSPOT, CANNONBALL AND WOLFSBANE STAND CAPTIVE BEFORE ONE OF HELA'S MINIONS, THE DARK VALKYRIE CALLED MIST...
YOU NEW MUTANTS HAVE PROVED BY YOUR INTERFERENCE IN MATTERS THAT CONCERN YOU NOT...
...MOST EAGER TO CONFRONT THE DEATH GODDESS, MY MISTRESS HELA!
COME, LET ME TAKE YOU TO HER!
BOOM!
BY ODIN'S BEARD, WHAT IS THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF BOOM-BOOM'S TIME BOMBS!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S DISTRACTED HER!
NOW, WITCH--!
Fool of a child of Midgard,* what art thou DOING?
HELA is watching! Follow my lead... allow me to DEFEAT and CAPTURE thee... and mayhap I can save you all!
*EARTH --BOB.
POW!

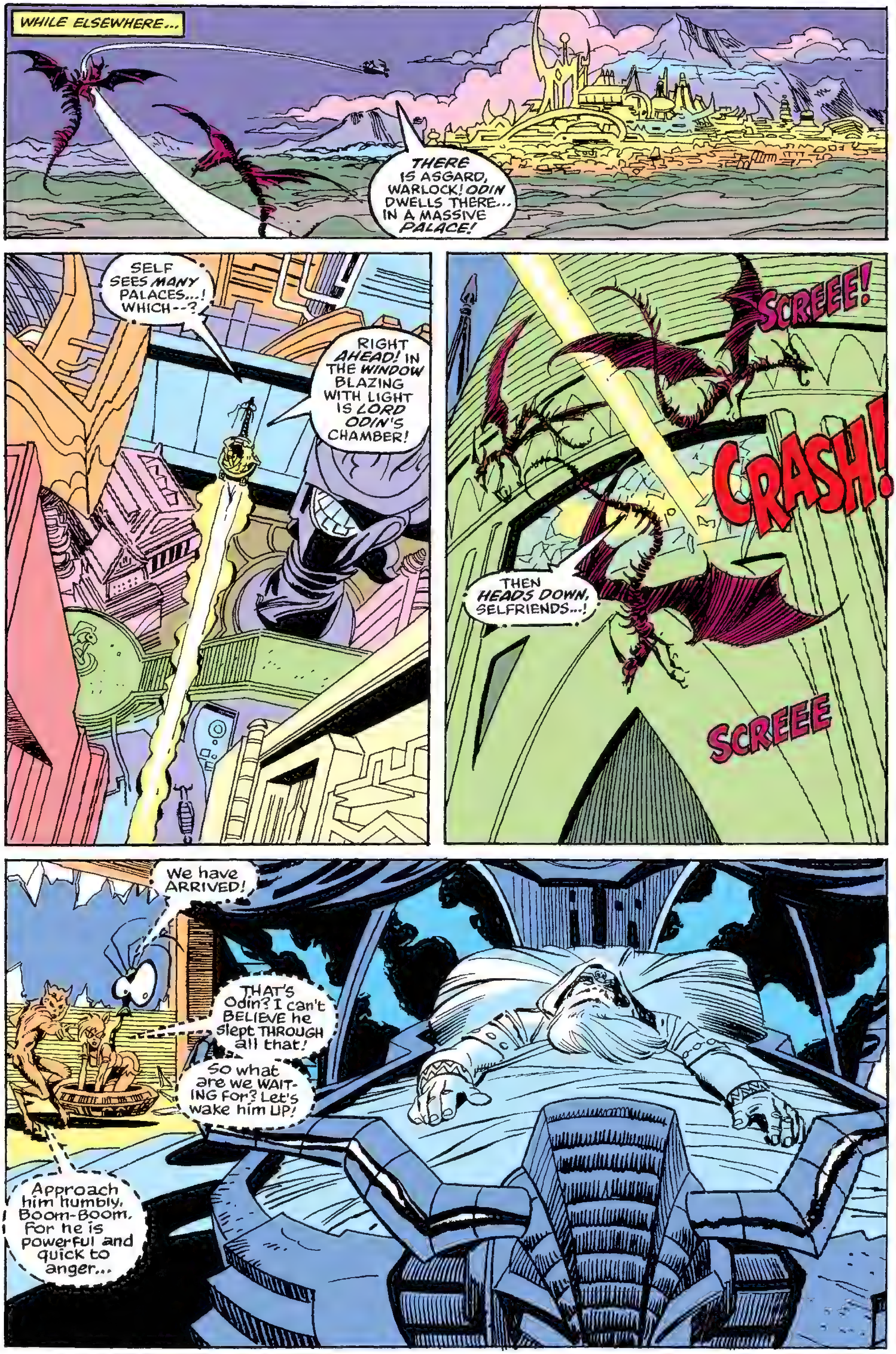

LISTEN, guys! She's not what she seems. PLAY ALONG with her... it's our only CHANCE.
No! Not AGAIN!
You...you want us to TRUST that...that THING--?
You were right about the DWARVES, Sam...they offered us aid, but you KNEW them. Why should SHE want to help us?
Shhhh!
SEE, OH DARK AND GLORIOUS HELA! I HAVE SNARED FOR THEE THE NEW MUTANTS!
ART THOU NOT PLEASED WITH THY FAITHFUL SERVANT?
WELL DONE, MIST.
THOU HAST SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THEM WHERE ALL MY OTHER SERVANTS HAVE FAILED.
BOOM!
THOSE MORTAL FOOLS WHO HAVE ESCAPED MY WRATH ARE DISCONTENT WITH THEIR SUCCESS...
...AND PERSIST IN THEIR VAIN EFFORTS TO DESTROY MY WARP!
AFTER THEM, MY SERVANTS! MAKE THEM CEASE THEIR ANNOYING CLAMOR, AND BRING THEM BACK TO ME...
...ALIVE OR DEAD, I CARE NOT WHICH!

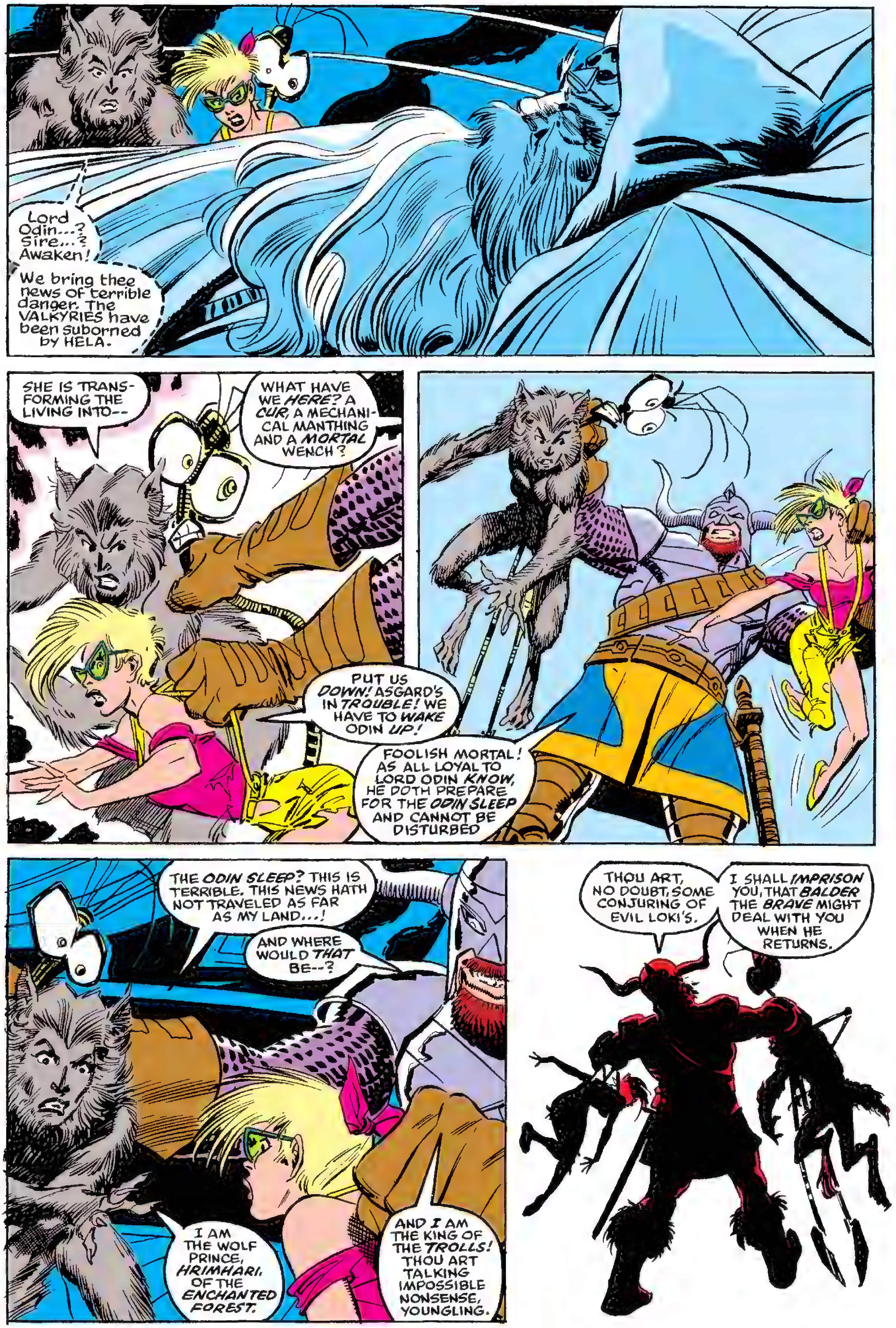

HIGH ABOVE A PREOCCUPIED WARLOCK, SINISTER SHAPES APPEAR...
FOR AN INSTANT, SELF FELT WARP LOOSEN.
ONE MORE MASSIVE BARRAGE, FRIEND-BOOM-BOOM, AND SELF CAN PERHAPS PULL FREE.
YOU SEE, PRINCE, MY TIME-BOMBS DO WORK!
...3...
EEE!
HELA'S MINIONS!
THOU SEEST, MORTAL. I TOLD THEE THEY WOULD DRAW HELA'S NOTICE!
EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC!...2...
...CLOSE YOUR EARS...1... I MADE A LOT OF 'EM...
BOOM! BA-DOOM!
BOOM!
PULL, WARLOCK... BE READY...
NOW!
SELF IS FREE!
POP!

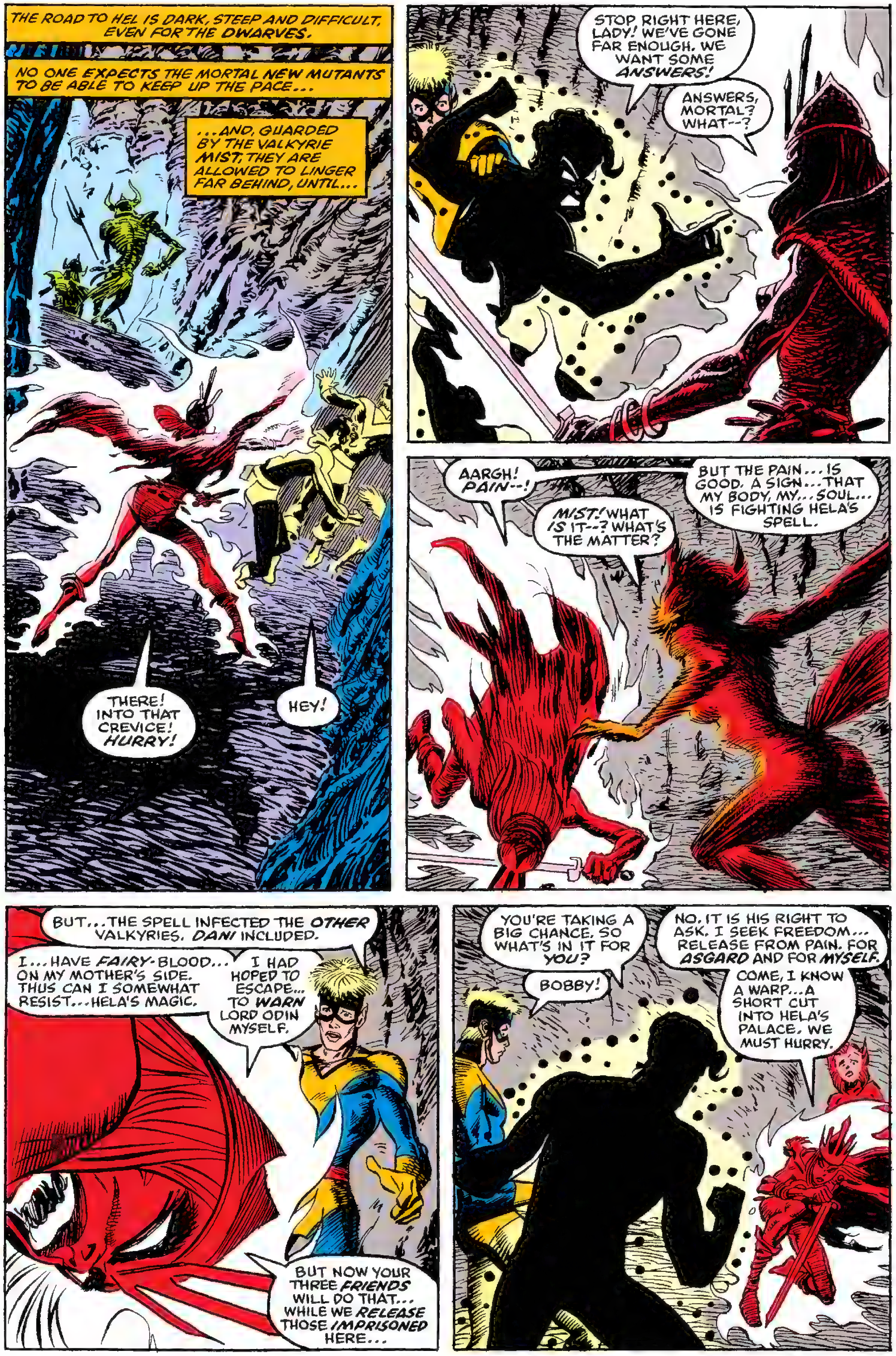

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *OTHERS?* WHERE *ARE* THEY?
GONE! THEY ARE HELA'S *CAPTIVES,* WITHIN THE WARP!
SO WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?*
SELFRIENDS, WE ARE SURROUNDED BY *MONSTERS!* PERHAPS, WE MIGHT *FIRST* ATTEND TO *THEM*--
WELL *SAID,* MY FRIEND.
AND THEN WE MUST JOURNEY TO *LORD ODIN* TO WARN HIM OF HELA'S TREACHERY!
ODIN IS *LORD* OF ASGARD AND WILL AID US GLADLY.
WHAT? *YOU* WANT ME TO LEAVE MY FRIENDS *STUCK* IN THERE... 3... WITH THOSE?
JUST THE ATTITUDE I'D EXPECT... 2... FROM A WALKING SHAG *RUG*... 1...
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA
BOOM!
THINKST THOU THAT I WOULD LEAVE RAHNE IN HELA'S CLUTCHES HAD I THE MEREST *HOPE* THAT WE *ALONE* MIGHT *SAVE* HER?
I TELL THEE, *HELA* IS TOO *POWERFUL!*
BUT--
SELF WILL SETTLE THIS ARGUMENT! SELF HAS *DECIDED!*
SELFRIENDS WILL *ESCAPE* ...THAT WE ALL MIGHT *LIVE* TO SAVE THE OTHERS!
THEN HEAD *THAT* WAY, MY FRIEND, TOWARD *ASGARD!* AND FLY *QUICKLY*... WE HAVE LITTLE TIME...!

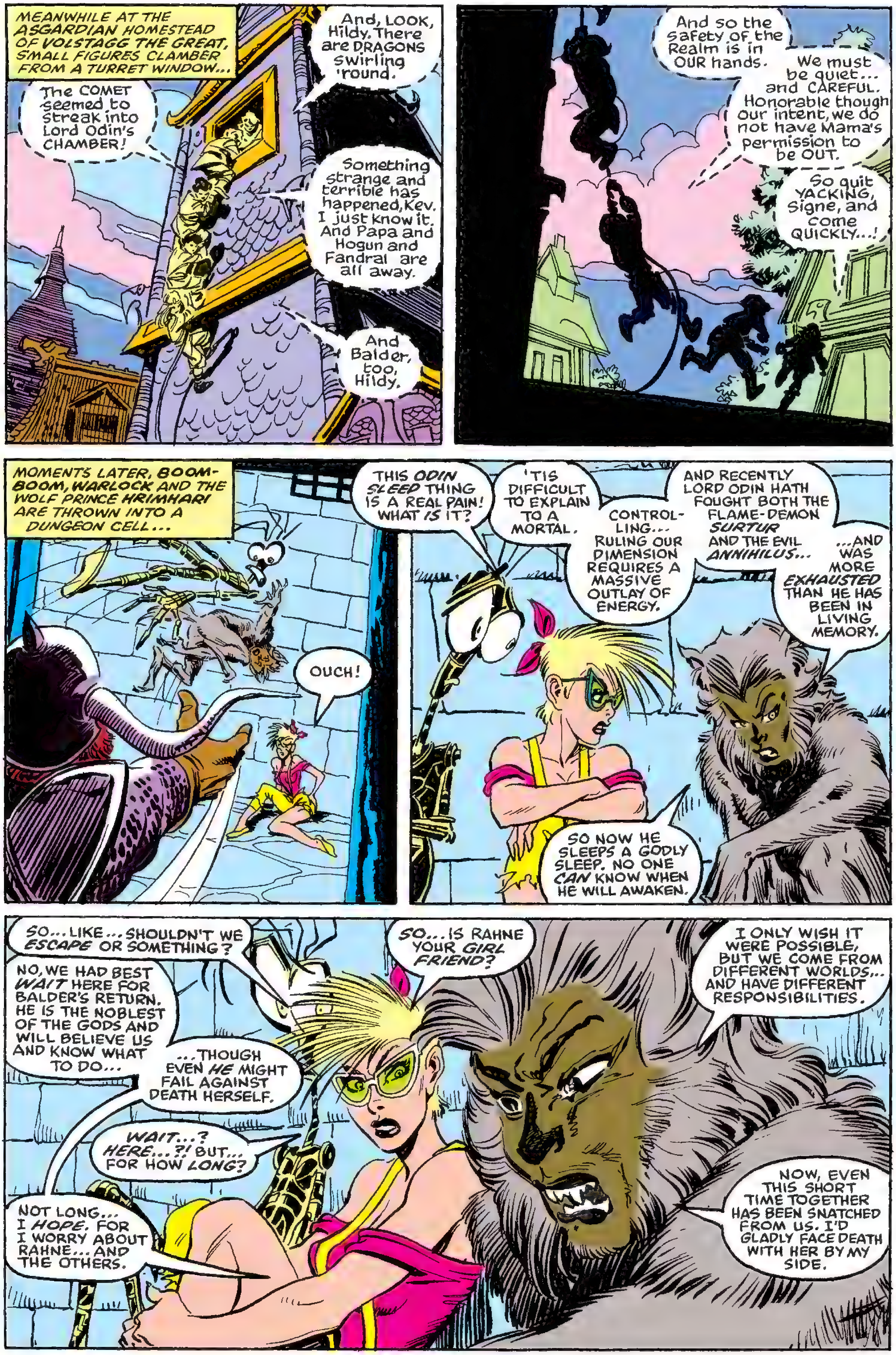

WHILE IN THE COURTYARD OF VALHALLA, HELA'S PRISONERS ARE PRODDED, ONE BY ONE, THROUGH A TRANSPORT WARP TO THE GATES OF HEL...
It was bad enough, Sam, letting ourselves be captured by DWARVES, but you KNEW we could count on Eitri.*
We don't know ANYTHING about this supposedly un-corrupted Valkyrie.
I think it's all a trick.
Maybe, Bobby, but ah don't think so. An' from what HELA said, the others got AWAY.
*IN #79--BOB
If the Valkyrie MIST is really on our side, then maybe we can hold the fort in Hel...
...till the others bring help from outside...!
OH, NO, LOOK!
GARM WELCOMES YOU TO THE JAWS OF HEL.
BUT FEAR NOT MORTALS. FROM MY OWN JAWS, FOR NOW, YOU ARE SAFE.
GARM FOLLOWS HELA'S WILL. I WILL NOT HARM YOU AS YOU ENTER...
...BUT SHOULD YOU TRY TO ESCAPE, THAT WILL BE ANOTHER MATTER!
GET ON WITH THEE, WOLF-GIRL!
THY JOURNEY WILL BE LONG AND FILLED WITH HORRORS. GARM IS BUT THE FIRST.
QUIT POKING HER WITH THAT THING!

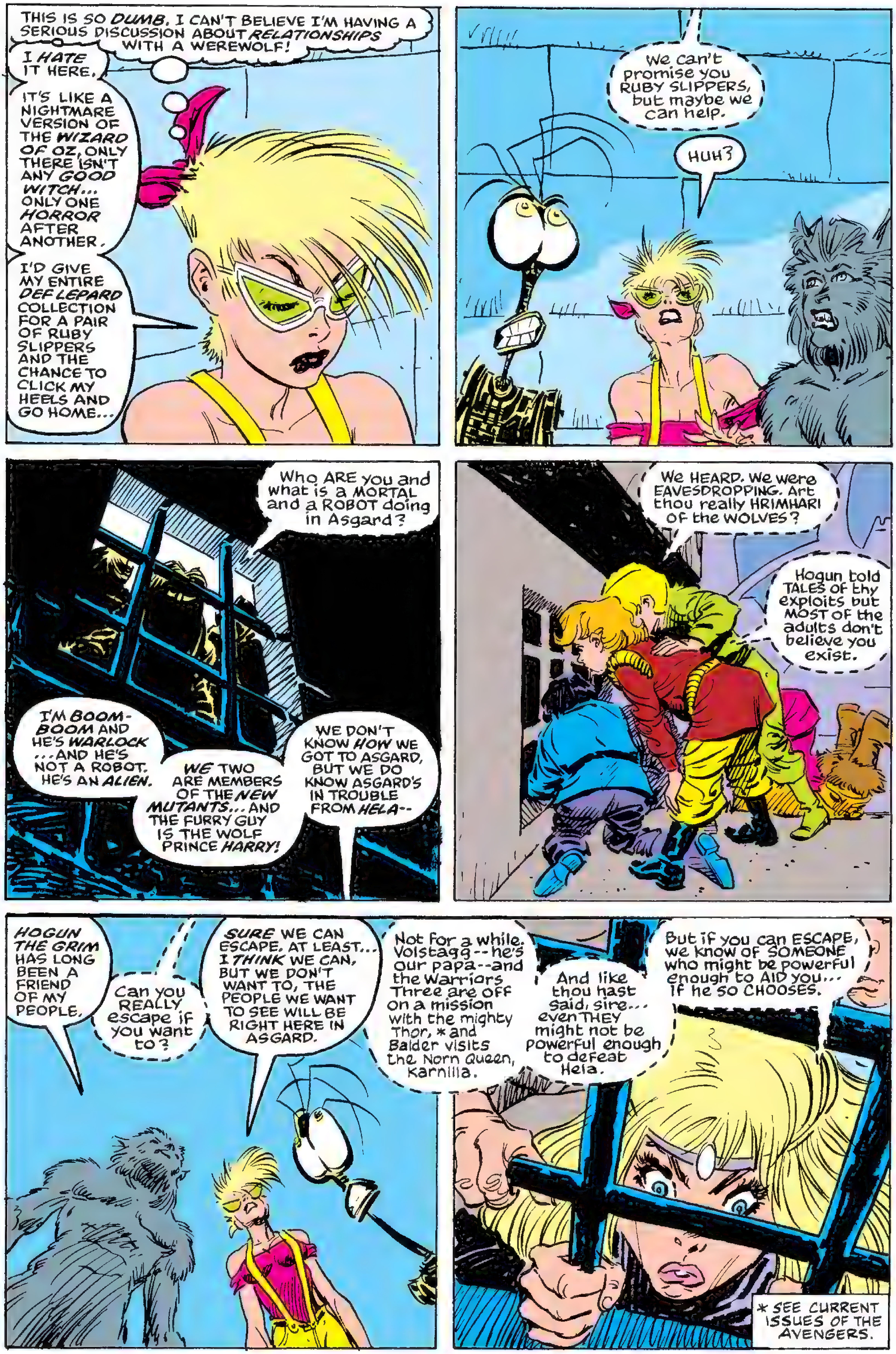

LEAVE HER *ALONE.* WE'LL *GO* WHEN WE'RE *READY.*
YOU KNOW, RAHNE, I WAS WORRIED WHEN BOOM-BOOM WAS SEPARATED FROM US, BUT I'M GLAD SHE ISN'T HERE TO SEE THIS.
OLD DOG BREATH'S PRETTY *HORRIBLE,* ISN'T HE...?
SOMETIMES, WHEN I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, I THINK... I SEE *THAT* FACE. THE *DEVIL'S* FACE... LOOKING BACK AT ME.
SO DON'T *LOOK* AT HIM, RAHNE. DON'T *THINK* ABOUT WHERE WE ARE. TALK ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE.*
YES. YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT. I *WON'T* LOOK.
I'LL TALK ABOUT HOW AT LEAST MY *WOLF-PRINCE* AND *WARLOCK* AND *BOOM-BOOM* ARE SAFE.
YOU... YOU REALLY *LIKE* BOOM-BOOM, DON'T YOU? DOES SHE KNOW?
NO WAY. SHE'D FIGURE IF I WAS DUMB ENOUGH TO LIKE *HER,* I WOULDN'T BE WORTH *HAVING* AS A BOYFRIEND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, RICTOR, LIKE *HER?* SHE... SHE'S ALWAYS BRAGGING... AND SHOWING OFF. SHE THINKS SHE'S *GREAT!*
DOES SHE...? DON'T LET HER NOISE *FOOL* YOU, RAHNE. SHE *HIDES* BEHIND IT... SHE *USES* IT TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM GETTING CLOSE.
AND SHE'S SCARED TO DEATH OF *ASGARD.*
I'M JUST GLAD THAT FRIENDS ARE *WITH* HER... THAT SHE'S NOT OUT THERE *ALONE...*

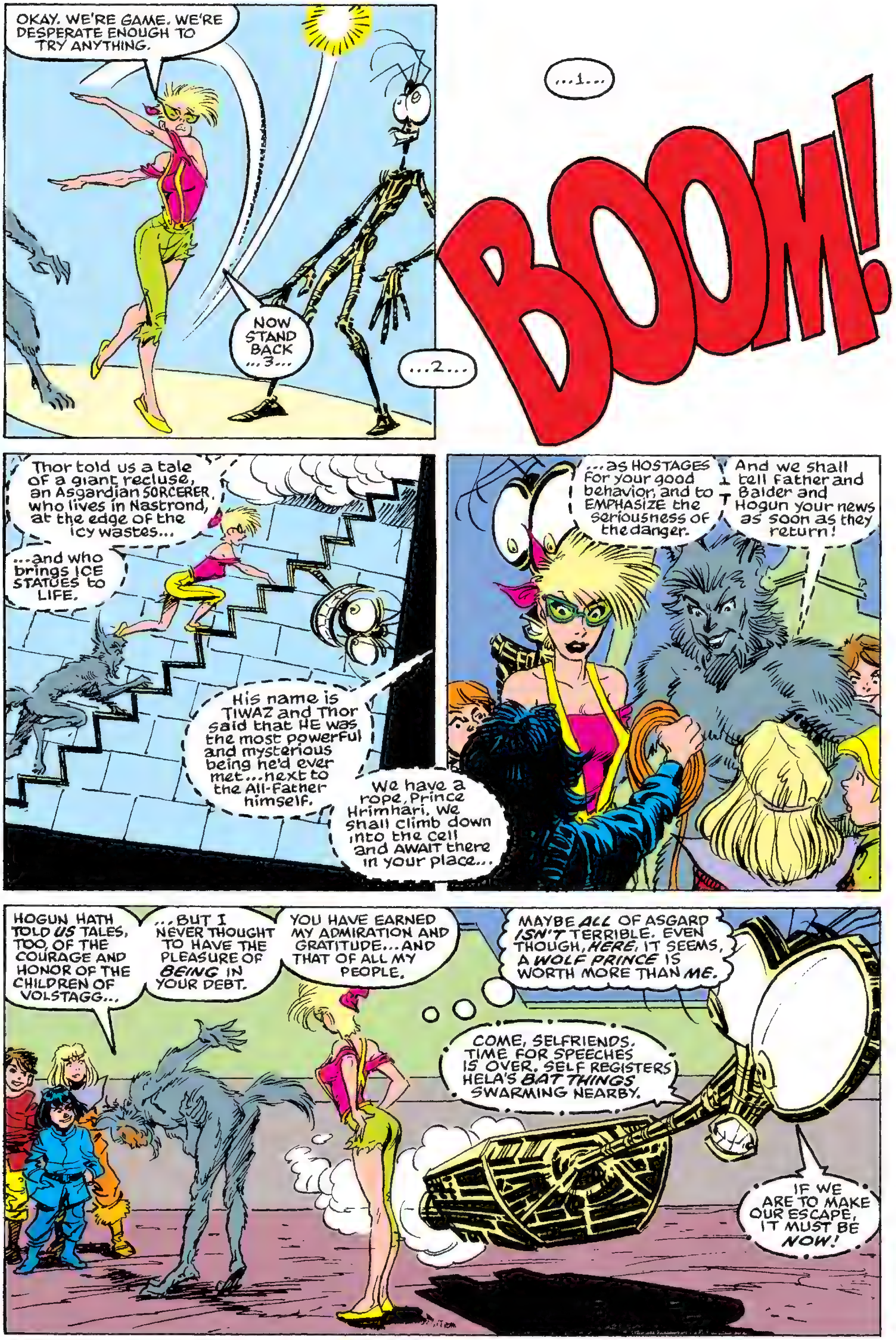

WHILE ELSEWHERE...
THERE IS ASGARD, WARLOCK! ODIN DWELLS THERE... IN A MASSIVE PALACE!
SELF SEES MANY PALACES...! WHICH--?
RIGHT AHEAD! IN THE WINDOW BLAZING WITH LIGHT IS LORD ODIN'S CHAMBER!
SCREEE!
CRASH!
THEN HEADS DOWN, SELFRIENDS...!
SCREEE
We have ARRIVED!
THAT'S Odin? I can't BELIEVE he slept THROUGH all that!
So what are we WAITING for? Let's wake him UP!
Approach him humbly, Boom-Boom, for he is powerful and quick to anger...

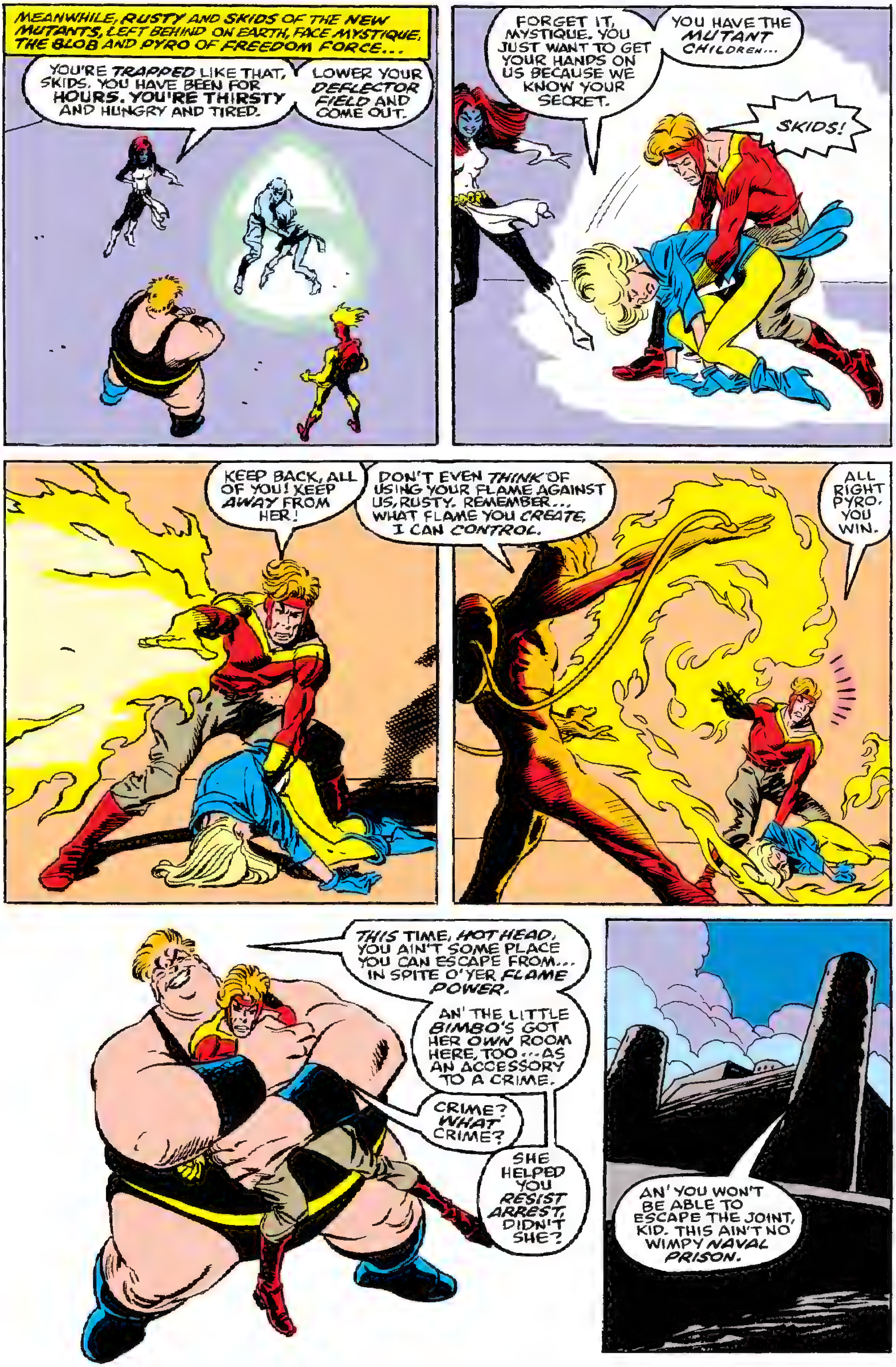

Lord Odin...? Sire...? Awaken!
We bring thee news of terrible danger. The VALKYRIES have been suborned by HELA.
SHE IS TRANSFORMING THE LIVING INTO--
WHAT HAVE WE *HERE?* A *CUR*, A MECHANICAL MANTHING AND A *MORTAL* WENCH?
PUT US *DOWN!* ASGARD'S IN *TROUBLE!* WE HAVE TO *WAKE* ODIN *UP!*
FOOLISH MORTAL! AS ALL LOYAL TO LORD ODIN *KNOW*, HE DOTH PREPARE FOR THE *ODIN SLEEP* AND CANNOT BE DISTURBED
THE *ODIN SLEEP?* THIS IS TERRIBLE. THIS NEWS HATH NOT TRAVELED AS FAR AS MY LAND...!
AND WHERE WOULD *THAT* BE--?
I AM THE WOLF PRINCE, *HRIMHARI*, OF THE *ENCHANTED FOREST*.
AND *I* AM THE KING OF THE *TROLLS!* THOU ART TALKING IMPOSSIBLE NONSENSE, YOUNGLING.
THOU ART, NO DOUBT, SOME CONJURING OF EVIL LOKI'S.
I SHALL *IMPRISON* YOU, THAT *BALDER THE BRAVE* MIGHT DEAL WITH YOU WHEN HE RETURNS.

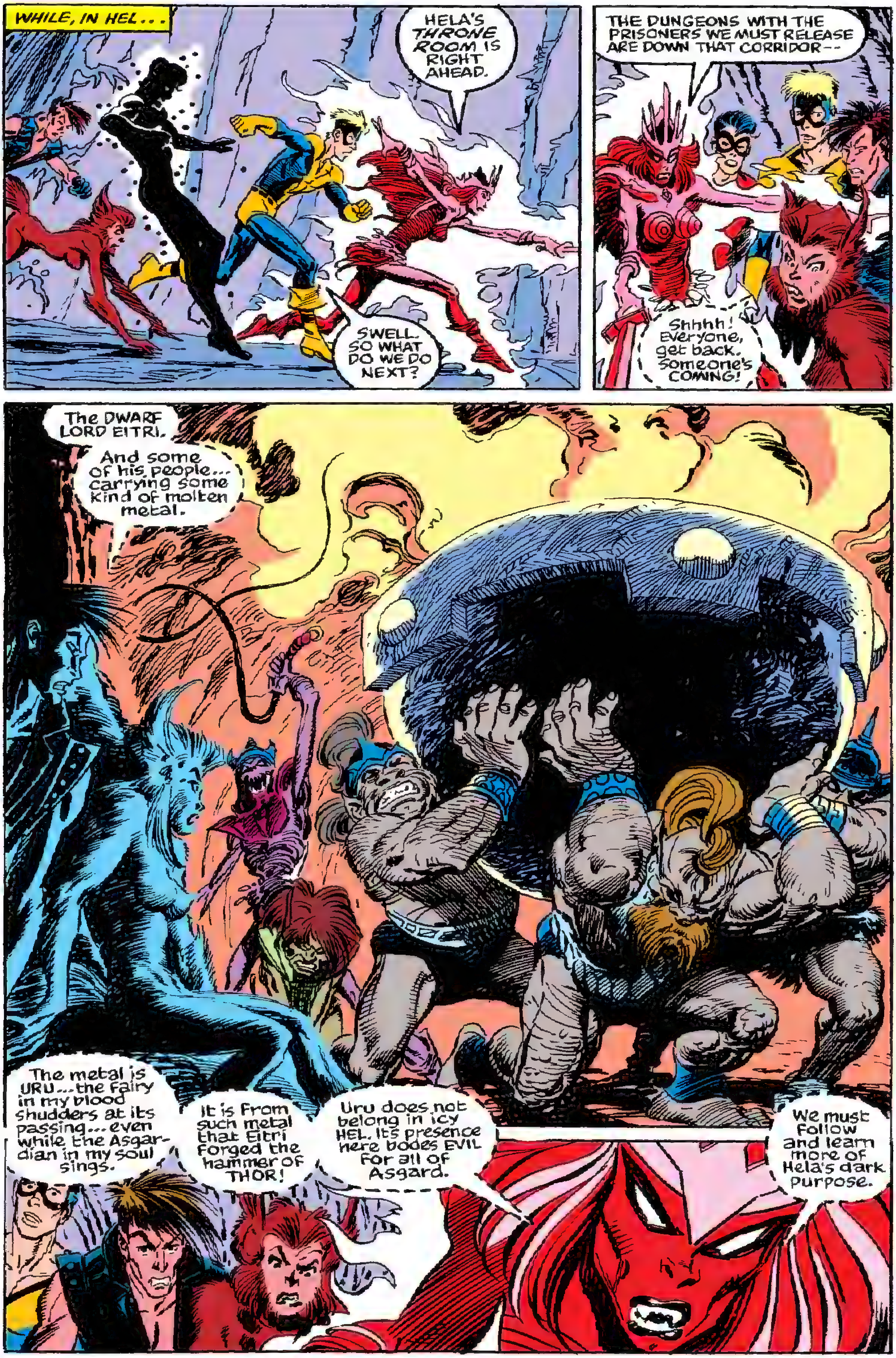

THE ROAD TO HEL IS DARK, STEEP AND DIFFICULT, EVEN FOR THE DWARVES.
NO ONE EXPECTS THE MORTAL NEW MUTANTS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THE PACE...
...AND, GUARDED BY THE VALKYRIE MIST, THEY ARE ALLOWED TO LINGER FAR BEHIND, UNTIL...
THERE! INTO THAT CREVICE! HURRY!
HEY!
STOP RIGHT HERE, LADY! WE'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH. WE WANT SOME ANSWERS!
ANSWERS, MORTAL? WHAT--?
AARGH! PAIN--!
MIST! WHAT IS IT--? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
BUT THE PAIN... IS GOOD. A SIGN... THAT MY BODY, MY... SOUL... IS FIGHTING HELA'S SPELL.
BUT... THE SPELL INFECTED THE OTHER VALKYRIES. DANI INCLUDED.
I... HAVE FAIRY-BLOOD... ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE. THUS CAN I SOMEWHAT RESIST... HELA'S MAGIC.
I HAD HOPED TO ESCAPE... TO WARN LORD ODIN MYSELF.
BUT NOW YOUR THREE FRIENDS WILL DO THAT... WHILE WE RELEASE THOSE IMPRISONED HERE...
YOU'RE TAKING A BIG CHANCE. SO WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?
BOBBY!
NO. IT IS HIS RIGHT TO ASK. I SEEK FREEDOM... RELEASE FROM PAIN. FOR ASGARD AND FOR MYSELF.
COME, I KNOW A WARP... A SHORT CUT INTO HELA'S PALACE. WE MUST HURRY.

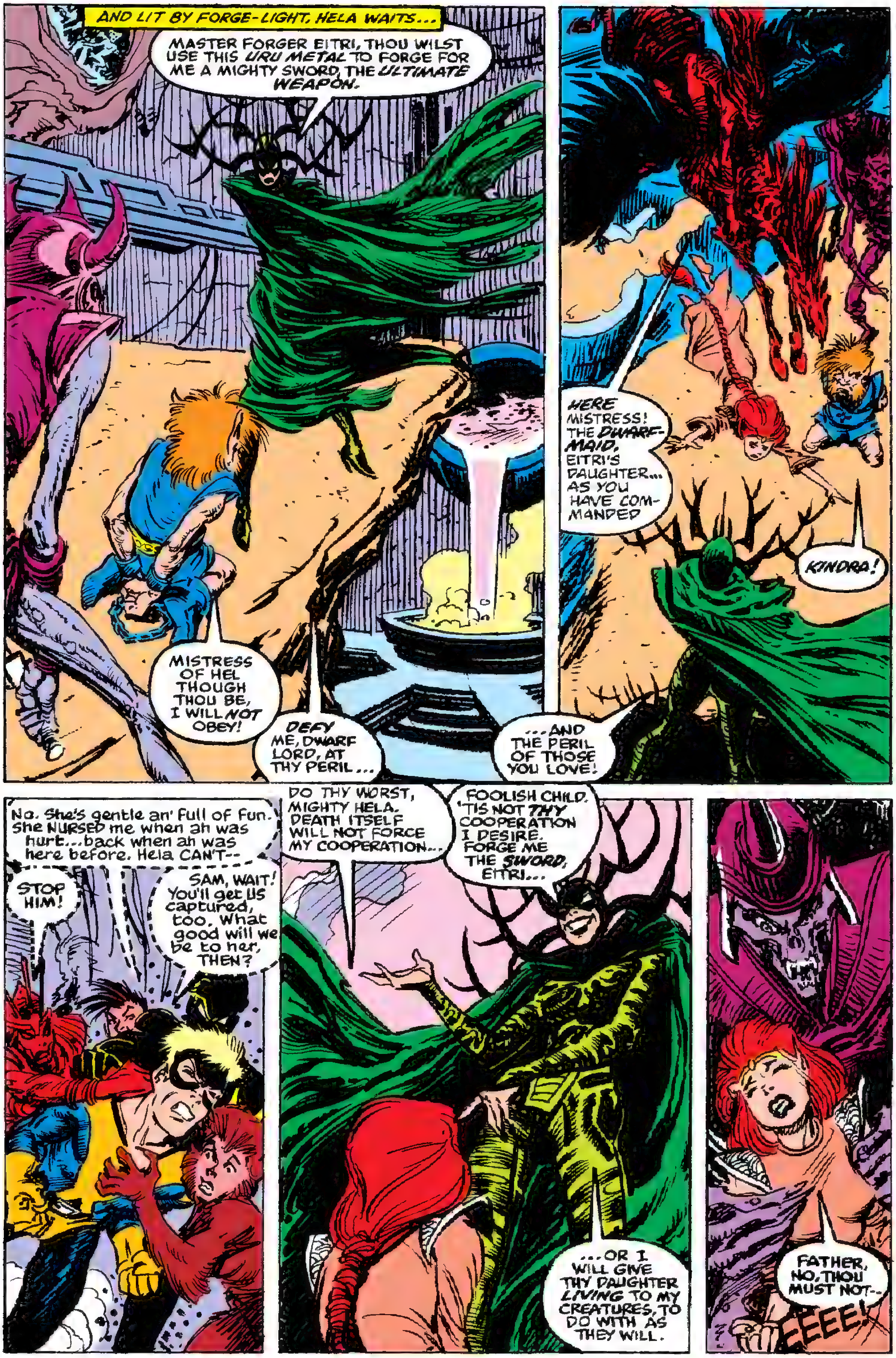

MEANWHILE AT THE ASGARDIAN HOMESTEAD OF *VOLSTAGG THE GREAT*, SMALL FIGURES CLAMBER FROM A TURRET WINDOW...
The COMET seemed to streak into Lord Odin's CHAMBER!
And, LOOK, Hildy. There are DRAGONS swirling 'round.
Something strange and terrible has happened, Kev. I just know it. And Papa and Hogun and Fandral are all away.
And Balder, too, Hildy.
And so the safety of the Realm is in OUR hands.
We must be quiet... and CAREFUL. Honorable though our intent, we do not have Mama's permission to be OUT.
So quit YACKING, Signe, and come QUICKLY...!
MOMENTS LATER, BOOM-BOOM, WARLOCK AND THE WOLF PRINCE HRIMHARI ARE THROWN INTO A DUNGEON CELL...
OUCH!
THIS *ODIN SLEEP* THING IS A REAL PAIN! WHAT *IS* IT?
'TIS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO A MORTAL.
CONTROL-LING... RULING OUR DIMENSION REQUIRES A MASSIVE OUTLAY OF ENERGY.
AND RECENTLY LORD ODIN HATH FOUGHT BOTH THE FLAME-DEMON *SURTUR* AND THE EVIL *ANNIHILUS*...
...AND WAS MORE *EXHAUSTED* THAN HE HAS BEEN IN LIVING MEMORY.
SO NOW HE SLEEPS A GODLY SLEEP. NO ONE *CAN* KNOW WHEN HE WILL AWAKEN.
SO... LIKE... SHOULDN'T WE *ESCAPE* OR SOMETHING?
NO, WE HAD BEST *WAIT* HERE FOR BALDER'S RETURN. HE IS THE NOBLEST OF THE GODS AND WILL BELIEVE US AND KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...THOUGH EVEN *HE* MIGHT FAIL AGAINST DEATH HERSELF.
WAIT...? HERE...?! BUT... FOR HOW *LONG*?
NOT LONG... I *HOPE*. FOR I WORRY ABOUT RAHNE... AND THE OTHERS.
SO... IS RAHNE YOUR *GIRL FRIEND?*
I ONLY WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE, BUT WE COME FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS... AND HAVE DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITIES.
NOW, EVEN THIS SHORT TIME TOGETHER HAS BEEN SNATCHED FROM US. I'D GLADLY FACE DEATH WITH HER BY MY SIDE.

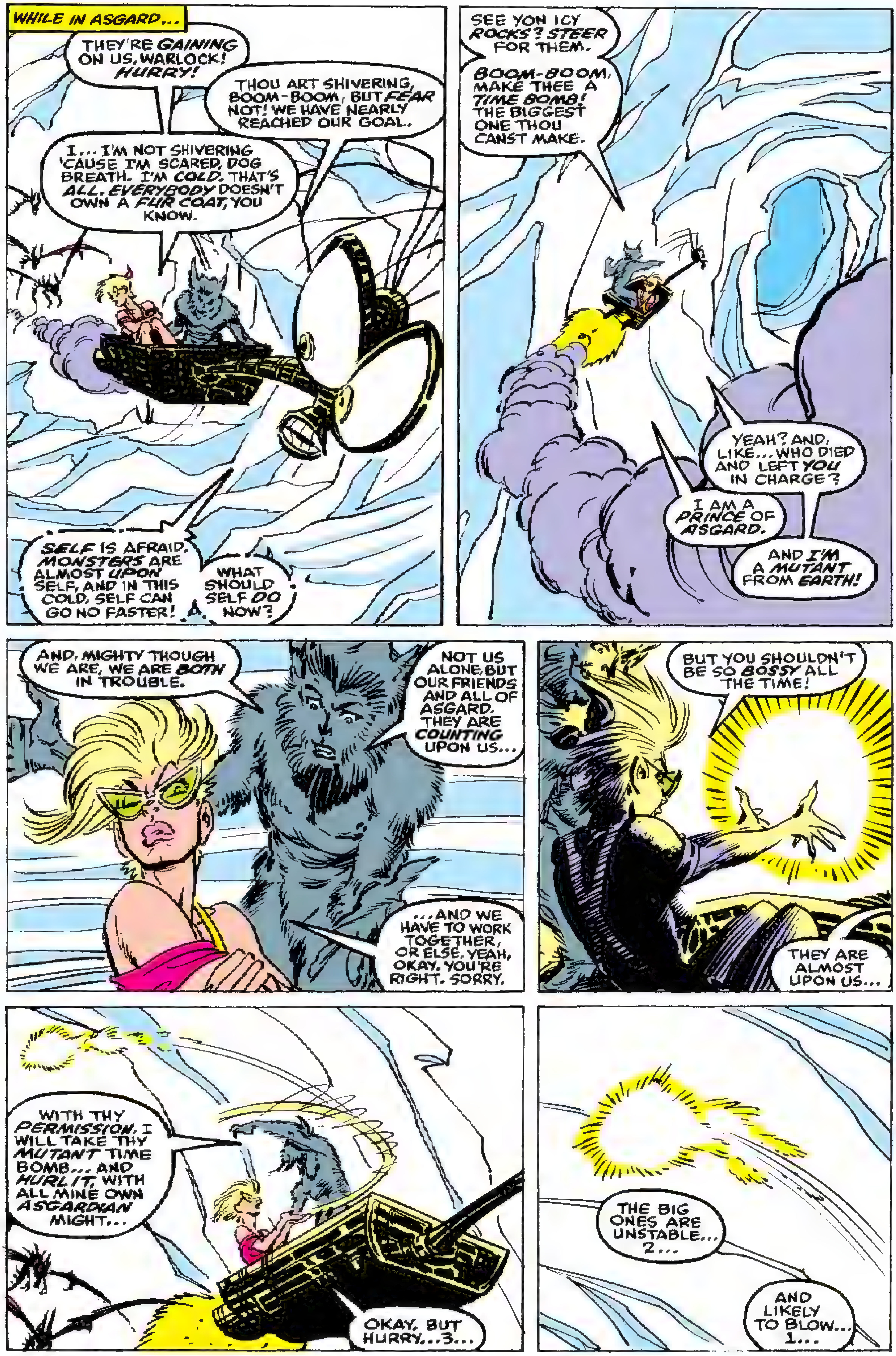

THIS IS SO DUMB. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HAVING A SERIOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH A WEREWOLF!
I HATE IT HERE.
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE VERSION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ, ONLY THERE ISN'T ANY GOOD WITCH... ONLY ONE HORROR AFTER ANOTHER.
I'D GIVE MY ENTIRE DEF LEPARD COLLECTION FOR A PAIR OF RUBY SLIPPERS AND THE CHANCE TO CLICK MY HEELS AND GO HOME...
We can't promise you RUBY SLIPPERS, but maybe we can help.
HUH?
Who ARE you and what is a MORTAL and a ROBOT doing in Asgard?
I'M BOOM-BOOM AND HE'S WARLOCK ...AND HE'S NOT A ROBOT. HE'S AN ALIEN.
WE TWO ARE MEMBERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS... AND THE FURRY GUY IS THE WOLF PRINCE HARRY!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT TO ASGARD, BUT WE DO KNOW ASGARD'S IN TROUBLE FROM HELA--
We HEARD. We were EAVESDROPPING. Art thou really HRIMHARI of the WOLVES?
Hogun told TALES of thy exploits but MOST of the adults don't believe you exist.
HOGUN THE GRIM HAS LONG BEEN A FRIEND OF MY PEOPLE.
Can you REALLY escape if you want to?
SURE WE CAN ESCAPE, AT LEAST... I THINK WE CAN, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO, THE PEOPLE WE WANT TO SEE WILL BE RIGHT HERE IN ASGARD.
Not for a while. Volstagg--he's our papa--and the Warriors Three are off on a mission with the mighty Thor,* and Balder visits the Norn Queen, Karnilla.
And like thou hast said, sire... even THEY might not be powerful enough to defeat Hela.
But if you can ESCAPE, we know of SOMEONE who might be powerful enough to AID you... if he so CHOOSES.
* SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF THE AVENGERS.

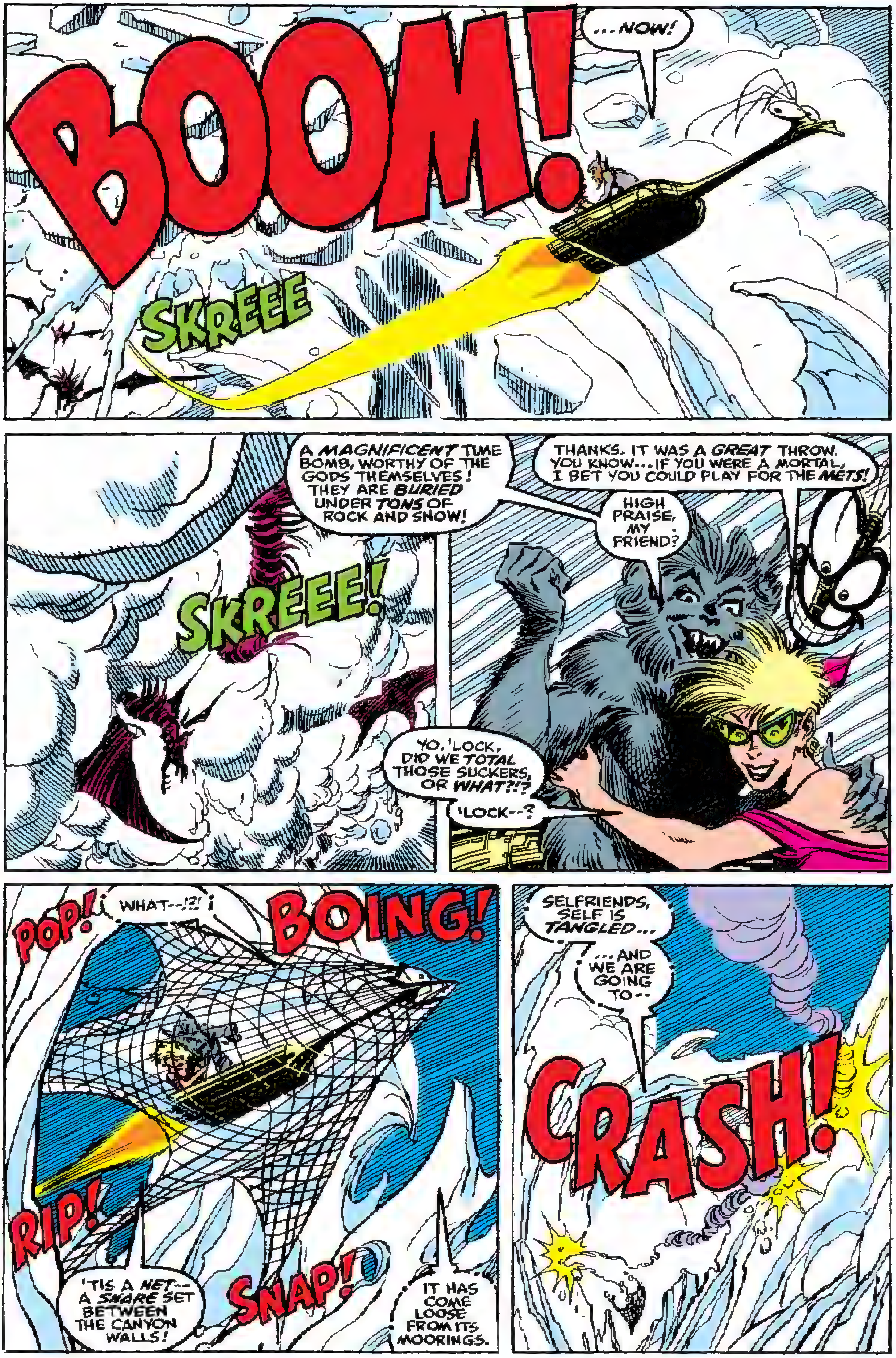

OKAY. WE'RE GAME. WE'RE DESPERATE ENOUGH TO TRY ANYTHING.
NOW STAND BACK ...3...
...2...
...1...
BOOM!
Thor told us a tale of a giant recluse, an Asgardian SORCERER who lives in Nastrond, at the edge of the icy wastes...
...and who brings ICE STATUES to LIFE.
His name is TIWAZ and Thor said that HE was the most powerful and mysterious being he'd ever met...next to the All-Father himself.
We have a rope, Prince Hrimhari. We shall climb down into the cell and AWAIT there in your place...
...as HOSTAGES for your good behavior, and to EMPHASIZE the seriousness of the danger.
And we shall tell Father and Balder and Hogun your news as soon as they return!
HOGUN HATH TOLD US TALES, TOO, OF THE COURAGE AND HONOR OF THE CHILDREN OF VOLSTAGG...
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT TO HAVE THE PLEASURE OF BEING IN YOUR DEBT.
YOU HAVE EARNED MY ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE...AND THAT OF ALL MY PEOPLE.
MAYBE ALL OF ASGARD ISN'T TERRIBLE. EVEN THOUGH, HERE, IT SEEMS, A WOLF PRINCE IS WORTH MORE THAN ME.
COME, SELFRIENDS. TIME FOR SPEECHES IS OVER. SELF REGISTERS HELA'S BAT THINGS SWARMING NEARBY.
IF WE ARE TO MAKE OUR ESCAPE, IT MUST BE NOW!

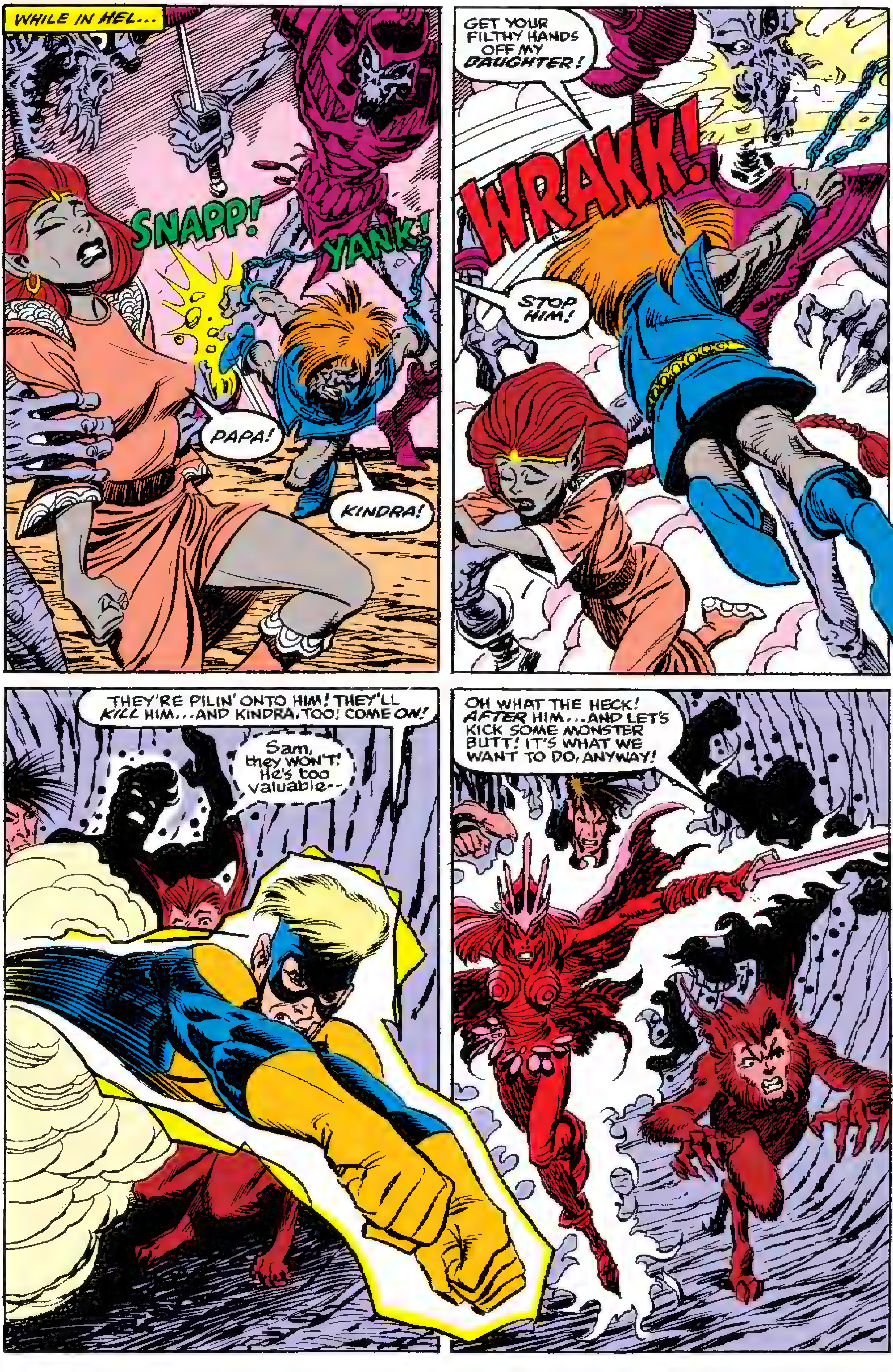

MEANWHILE, RUSTY AND SKIDS OF THE NEW MUTANTS, LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH, FACE MYSTIQUE, THE BLOB AND PYRO OF FREEDOM FORCE...
YOU'RE TRAPPED LIKE THAT, SKIDS. YOU HAVE BEEN FOR HOURS. YOU'RE THIRSTY AND HUNGRY AND TIRED.
LOWER YOUR DEFLECTOR FIELD AND COME OUT.
FORGET IT, MYSTIQUE. YOU JUST WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON US BECAUSE WE KNOW YOUR SECRET.
YOU HAVE THE MUTANT CHILDREN...
SKIDS!
KEEP BACK, ALL OF YOU! KEEP AWAY FROM HER!
DON'T EVEN THINK OF USING YOUR FLAME AGAINST US, RUSTY. REMEMBER... WHAT FLAME YOU CREATE, I CAN CONTROL.
ALL RIGHT PYRO. YOU WIN.
THIS TIME, HOTHEAD, YOU AIN'T SOME PLACE YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM... IN SPITE O'YER FLAME POWER.
AN' THE LITTLE BIMBO'S GOT HER OWN ROOM HERE, TOO... AS AN ACCESSORY TO A CRIME.
CRIME? WHAT CRIME?
SHE HELPED YOU RESIST ARREST, DIDN'T SHE?
AN' YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE JOINT, KID. THIS AIN'T NO WIMPY NAVAL PRISON.

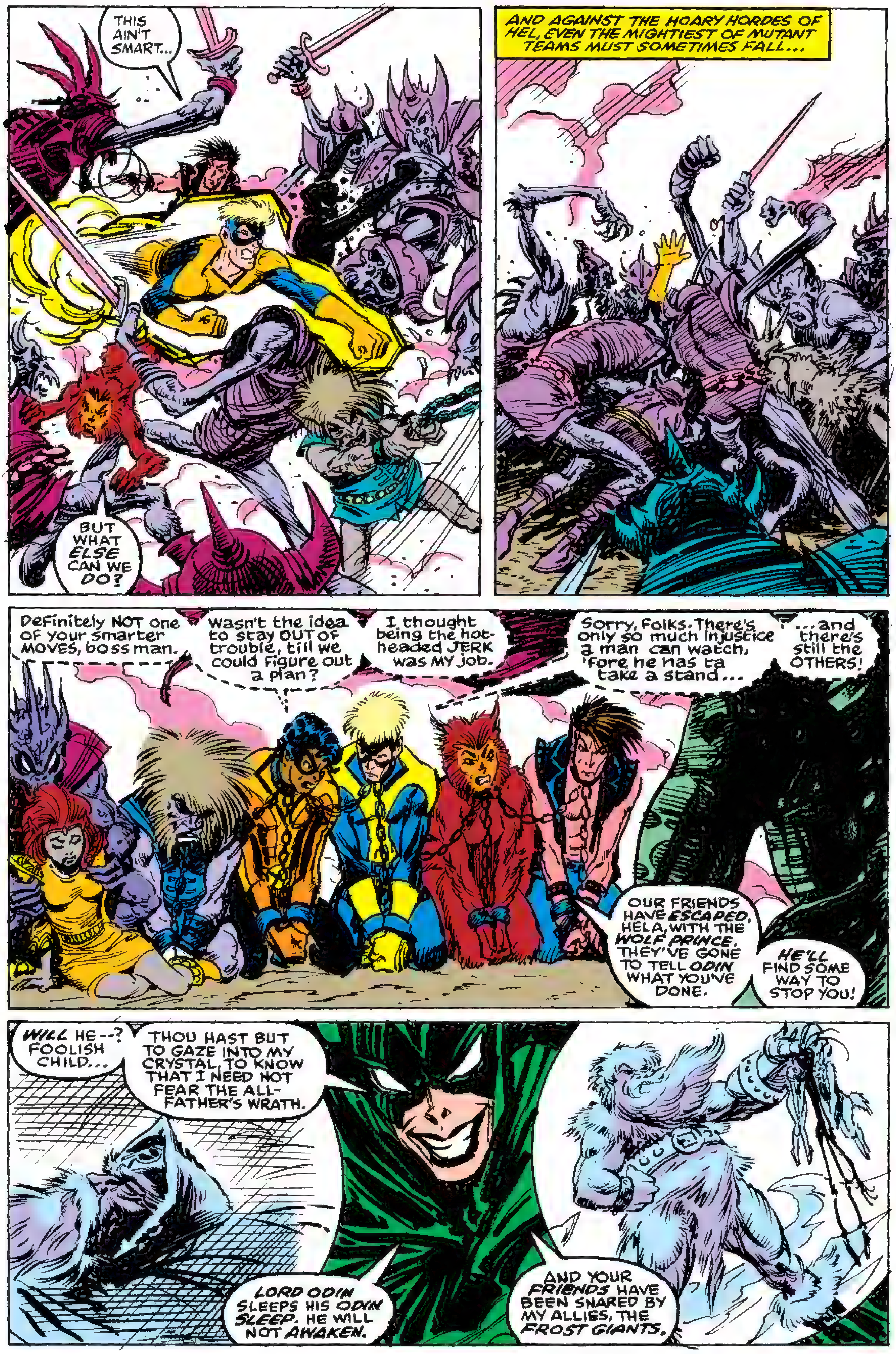

WHILE, IN HEL...
HELA'S THRONE ROOM IS RIGHT AHEAD.
SWELL. SO WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
THE DUNGEONS WITH THE PRISONERS WE MUST RELEASE ARE DOWN THAT CORRIDOR--
Shhhh! Everyone, get back. Someone's COMING!
The DWARF LORD EITRI.
And some of his people... carrying some kind of molten metal.
The metal is URU... the fairy in my blood shudders at its passing... even while the Asgardian in my soul sings.
It is from such metal that Eitri forged the hammer of THOR!
Uru does not belong in icy HEL. Its presence here bodes EVIL for all of Asgard.
We must follow and learn more of Hela's dark purpose.

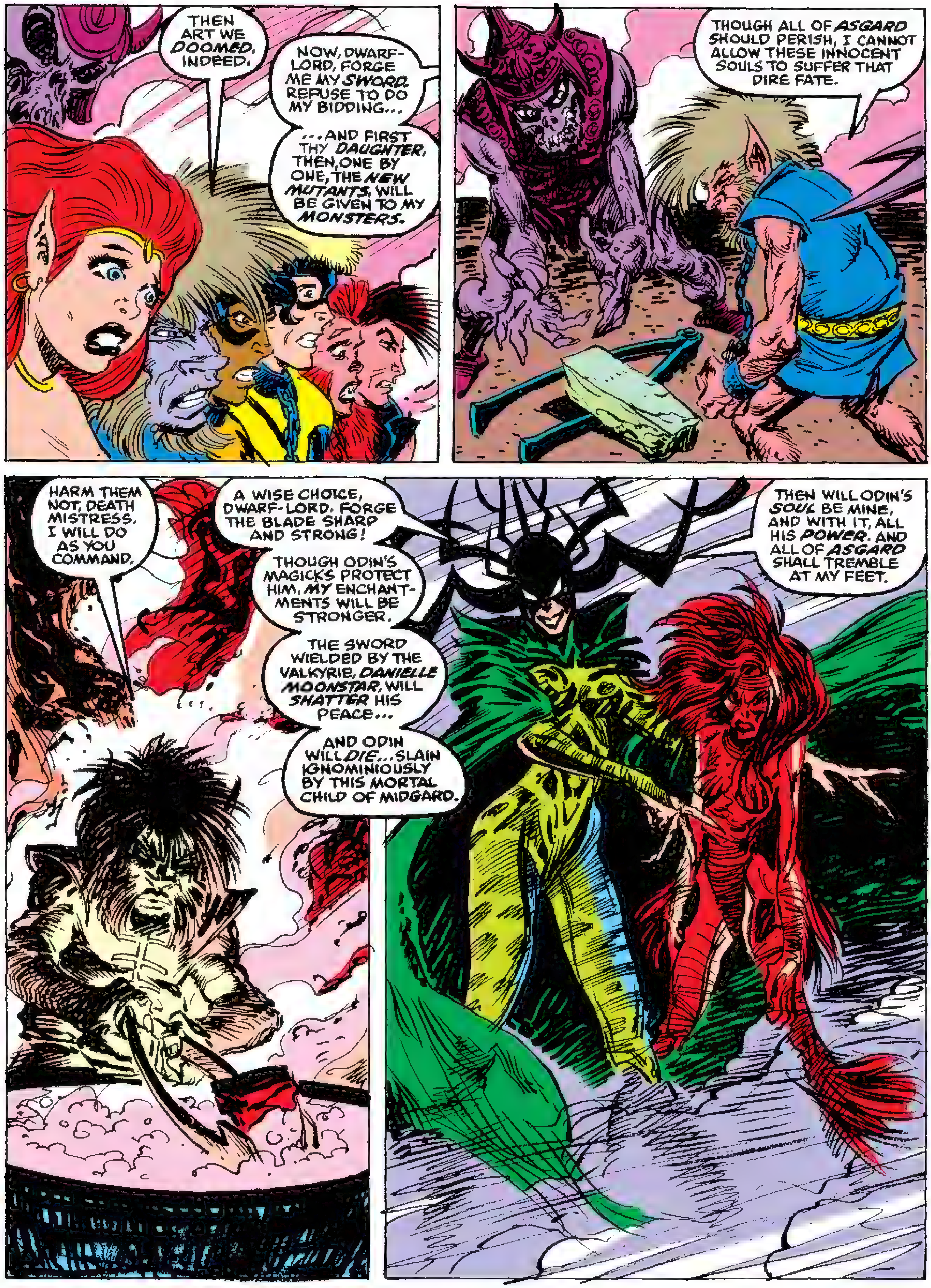

AND LIT BY FORGE-LIGHT, HELA WAITS...
MASTER FORGER EITRI, THOU WILST USE THIS URU METAL TO FORGE FOR ME A MIGHTY SWORD, THE ULTIMATE WEAPON.
MISTRESS OF HEL THOUGH THOU BE, I WILL NOT OBEY!
DEFY ME, DWARF LORD, AT THY PERIL...
HERE MISTRESS! THE DWARF-MAID, EITRI'S DAUGHTER... AS YOU HAVE COMMANDED
KINDRA!
...AND THE PERIL OF THOSE YOU LOVE!
No. She's gentle an' full of fun. She NURSED me when ah was hurt...back when ah was here before. Hela CAN'T--
STOP HIM!
SAM, WAIT! You'll get us captured, too. What good will we be to her, THEN?
DO THY WORST, MIGHTY HELA. DEATH ITSELF WILL NOT FORCE MY COOPERATION...
FOOLISH CHILD. 'TIS NOT THY COOPERATION I DESIRE. FORGE ME THE SWORD, EITRI...
...OR I WILL GIVE THY DAUGHTER LIVING TO MY CREATURES, TO DO WITH AS THEY WILL.
FATHER, NO, THOU MUST NOT--
EEEE!


WHILE IN ASGARD...
THEY'RE *GAINING* ON US, WARLOCK! *HURRY!*
THOU ART SHIVERING, BOOM-BOOM, BUT *FEAR* NOT! WE HAVE NEARLY REACHED OUR GOAL.
I... I'M NOT SHIVERING 'CAUSE I'M SCARED, DOG BREATH. I'M *COLD*. THAT'S *ALL*. *EVERYBODY* DOESN'T OWN A *FUR COAT*, YOU KNOW.
SELF IS AFRAID. *MONSTERS* ARE ALMOST *UPON* SELF, AND IN THIS COLD, SELF CAN GO NO FASTER!
WHAT SHOULD SELF *DO* NOW?
SEE YON ICY *ROCKS*? *STEER* FOR THEM.
BOOM-BOOM, MAKE THEE A *TIME BOMB!* THE BIGGEST ONE THOU CANST MAKE.
YEAH? AND, LIKE... WHO DIED AND LEFT *YOU* IN CHARGE?
I AM A *PRINCE* OF *ASGARD*.
AND *I'M* A *MUTANT* FROM *EARTH!*
AND, MIGHTY THOUGH WE ARE, WE ARE *BOTH* IN TROUBLE.
NOT US ALONE, BUT OUR FRIENDS AND ALL OF ASGARD. THEY ARE *COUNTING* UPON US...
...AND WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER, OR ELSE. YEAH, OKAY. YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO *BOSSY* ALL THE TIME!
THEY ARE ALMOST UPON US...
WITH THY *PERMISSION*, I WILL TAKE THY *MUTANT* TIME BOMB... AND *HURL IT*, WITH ALL MINE OWN *ASGARDIAN* MIGHT...
OKAY. BUT HURRY... 3...
THE BIG ONES ARE UNSTABLE... 2...
AND LIKELY TO BLOW... 1...


BOOM!
...NOW!
SKREEE
A MAGNIFICENT TIME BOMB, WORTHY OF THE GODS THEMSELVES! THEY ARE BURIED UNDER TONS OF ROCK AND SNOW!
SKREEE!
THANKS. IT WAS A GREAT THROW. YOU KNOW... IF YOU WERE A MORTAL, I BET YOU COULD PLAY FOR THE METS!
HIGH PRAISE, MY FRIEND?
YO, 'LOCK, DID WE TOTAL THOSE SUCKERS, OR WHAT?!?
'LOCK--?
POP!
WHAT--!?!
BOING!
RIP!
'TIS A NET-- A SNARE SET BETWEEN THE CANYON WALLS!
SNAP!
IT HAS COME LOOSE FROM ITS MOORINGS.
SELFRIENDS, SELF IS TANGLED...
...AND WE ARE GOING TO--
CRASH!


WHILE IN HEL...
SNAPP!
YANK!
PAPA!
KINDRA!
GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF MY DAUGHTER!
WRAKK!
STOP HIM!
THEY'RE PILIN' ONTO HIM! THEY'LL *KILL* HIM...AND KINDRA, TOO! COME *ON!*
Sam, they WON'T! He's too valuable--
OH WHAT THE HECK! *AFTER* HIM...AND LET'S KICK SOME MONSTER BUTT! IT'S WHAT WE WANT TO DO, ANYWAY!


THIS AIN'T SMART...
BUT WHAT *ELSE* CAN WE *DO*?
AND AGAINST THE HOARY HORDES OF HEL, EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF MUTANT TEAMS MUST SOMETIMES FALL...
Definitely NOT one of your smarter MOVES, boss man.
Wasn't the idea to stay OUT OF trouble, till we could figure out a plan?
I thought being the hot-headed JERK was MY job.
Sorry, folks. There's only so much injustice a man can watch, 'fore he has ta take a stand...
...and there's still the OTHERS!
OUR FRIENDS HAVE *ESCAPED*, HELA, WITH THE *WOLF PRINCE*. THEY'VE GONE TO TELL *ODIN* WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
HE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO STOP YOU!
WILL HE--? FOOLISH CHILD...
THOU HAST BUT TO GAZE INTO MY CRYSTAL, TO KNOW THAT I NEED NOT FEAR THE ALL-FATHER'S WRATH.
LORD ODIN SLEEPS HIS *ODIN SLEEP*. HE WILL NOT *AWAKEN*.
AND YOUR *FRIENDS* HAVE BEEN SNARED BY MY ALLIES, THE *FROST GIANTS*.


THEN ART WE *DOOMED*, INDEED.
NOW, DWARF-LORD, FORGE ME MY *SWORD*. REFUSE TO DO MY BIDDING...
...AND FIRST THY *DAUGHTER*, THEN, ONE BY ONE, THE *NEW MUTANTS*, WILL BE GIVEN TO MY *MONSTERS*.
THOUGH ALL OF *ASGARD* SHOULD PERISH, I CANNOT ALLOW THESE INNOCENT SOULS TO SUFFER THAT DIRE FATE.
HARM THEM NOT, DEATH MISTRESS. I WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND.
A WISE CHOICE, DWARF-LORD. FORGE THE BLADE SHARP AND STRONG!
THOUGH ODIN'S MAGICKS PROTECT HIM, *MY* ENCHANTMENTS WILL BE STRONGER.
THE SWORD WIELDED BY THE VALKYRIE, *DANIELLE MOONSTAR*, WILL *SHATTER* HIS PEACE...
AND ODIN WILL *DIE*... SLAIN IGNOMINIOUSLY BY THIS MORTAL CHILD OF MIDGARD.
THEN WILL ODIN'S *SOUL* BE MINE, AND WITH IT, ALL HIS *POWER*. AND ALL OF *ASGARD* SHALL TREMBLE AT MY FEET.

NEXT ISSUE: *GIANTS! GODS! THE SWORD-- FORGED AND STOLEN! THE ULTIMATE PRIZE IN A RACE THROUGH HEL THAT WILL BE WON BY...*

THE QUICK...or THE DEAD! *BE THERE!*

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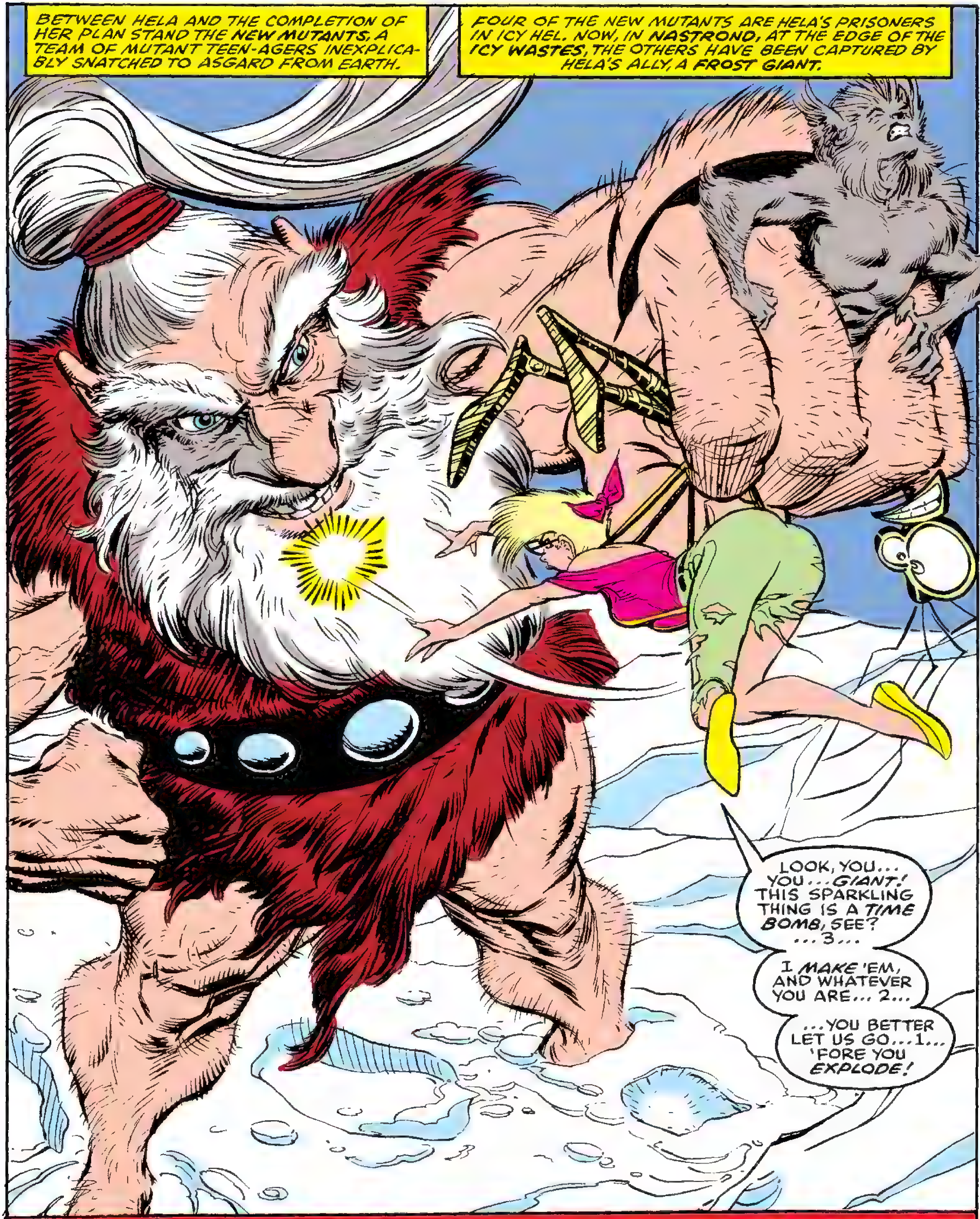
THE · NEW
MUTANTS®
BY MOONSTAR™ BETRAYED!
BLEVINS

ASGARD, THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE NORSE GODS.

THE DEATH-GODDESS **HELA** HAS A DEADLY SCHEME... TO SLAY THE MIGHTY **LORD ODIN** AS HE SLEEPS HIS MAGIC AND RESTORATIVE ODINSLEEP, AND MAKE HERSELF MISTRESS OF ALL OF ASGARD.

BETWEEN HELA AND THE COMPLETION OF HER PLAN STAND THE **NEW MUTANTS**, A TEAM OF MUTANT TEEN-AGERS INEXPLICABLY SNATCHED TO ASGARD FROM EARTH.

FOUR OF THE NEW MUTANTS ARE HELA'S PRISONERS IN ICY HEL. NOW, IN **NASTROND**, AT THE EDGE OF THE **ICY WASTES**, THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY HELA'S ALLY, A **FROST GIANT**.


LOOK, YOU... YOU... *GIANT!* THIS SPARKLING THING IS A *TIME BOMB,* SEE? ...3...
I *MAKE* 'EM, AND WHATEVER YOU ARE... 2...
...YOU BETTER LET US GO...1... 'FORE YOU *EXPLODE!*

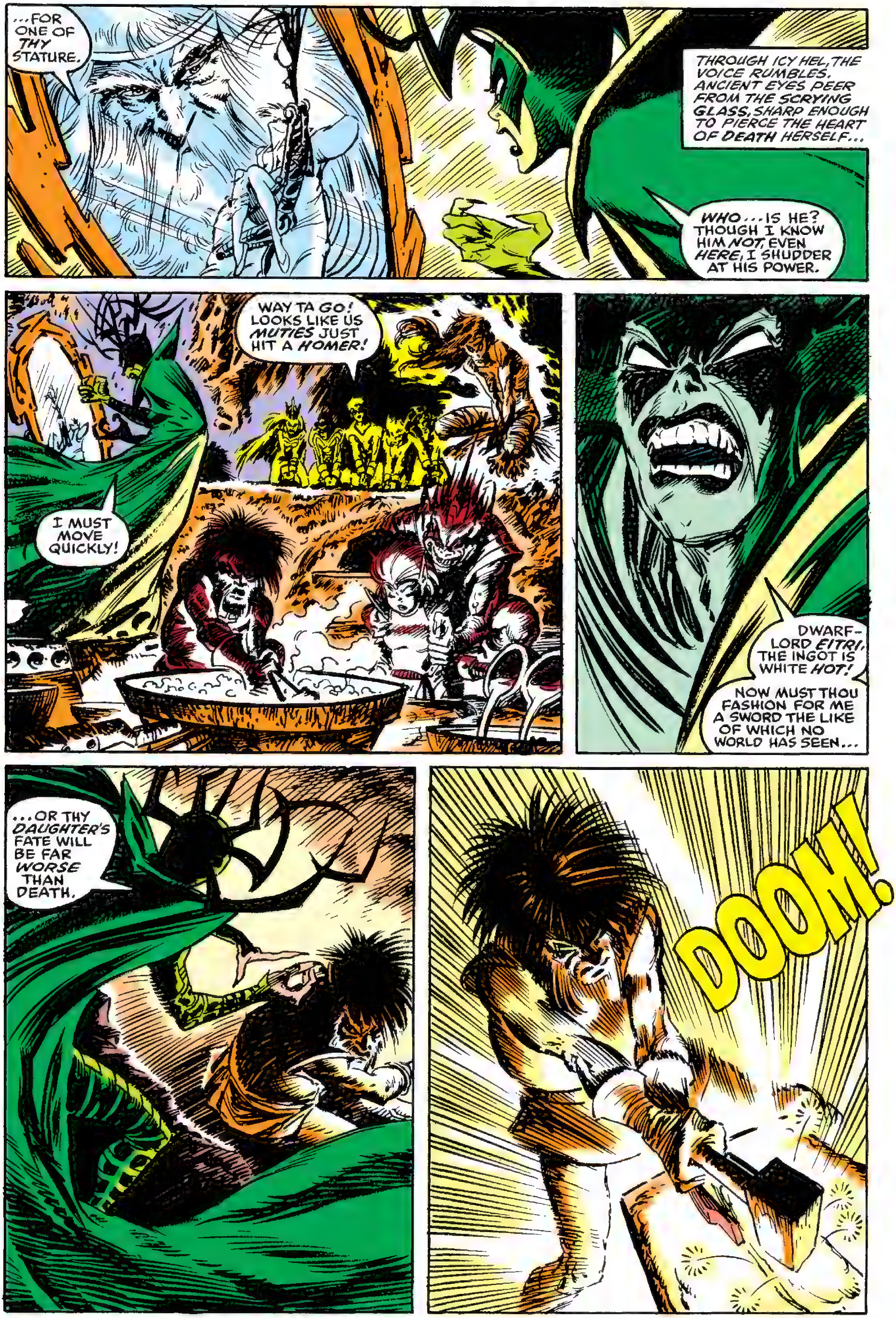
The QUICK and the DEAD

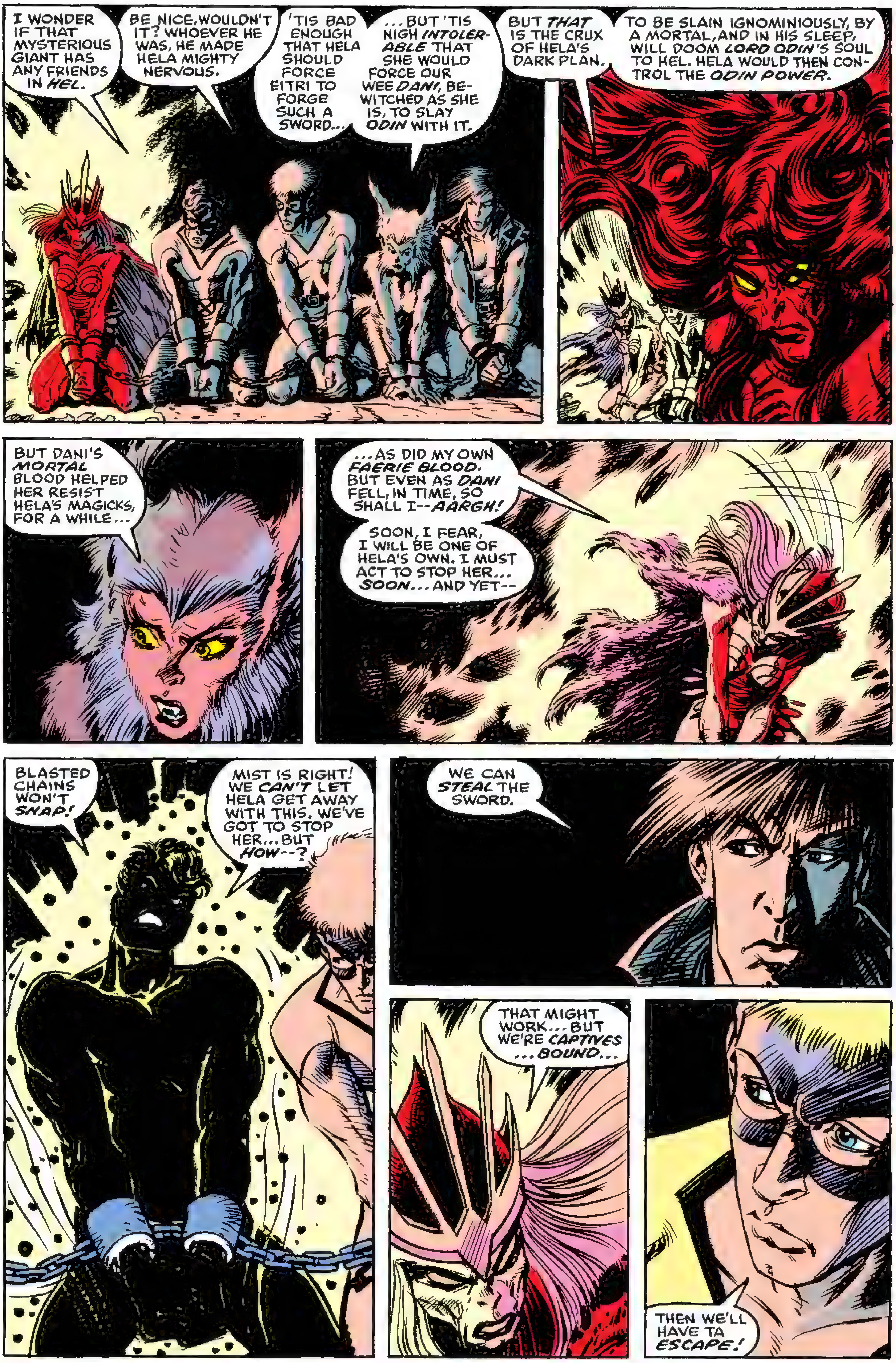
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

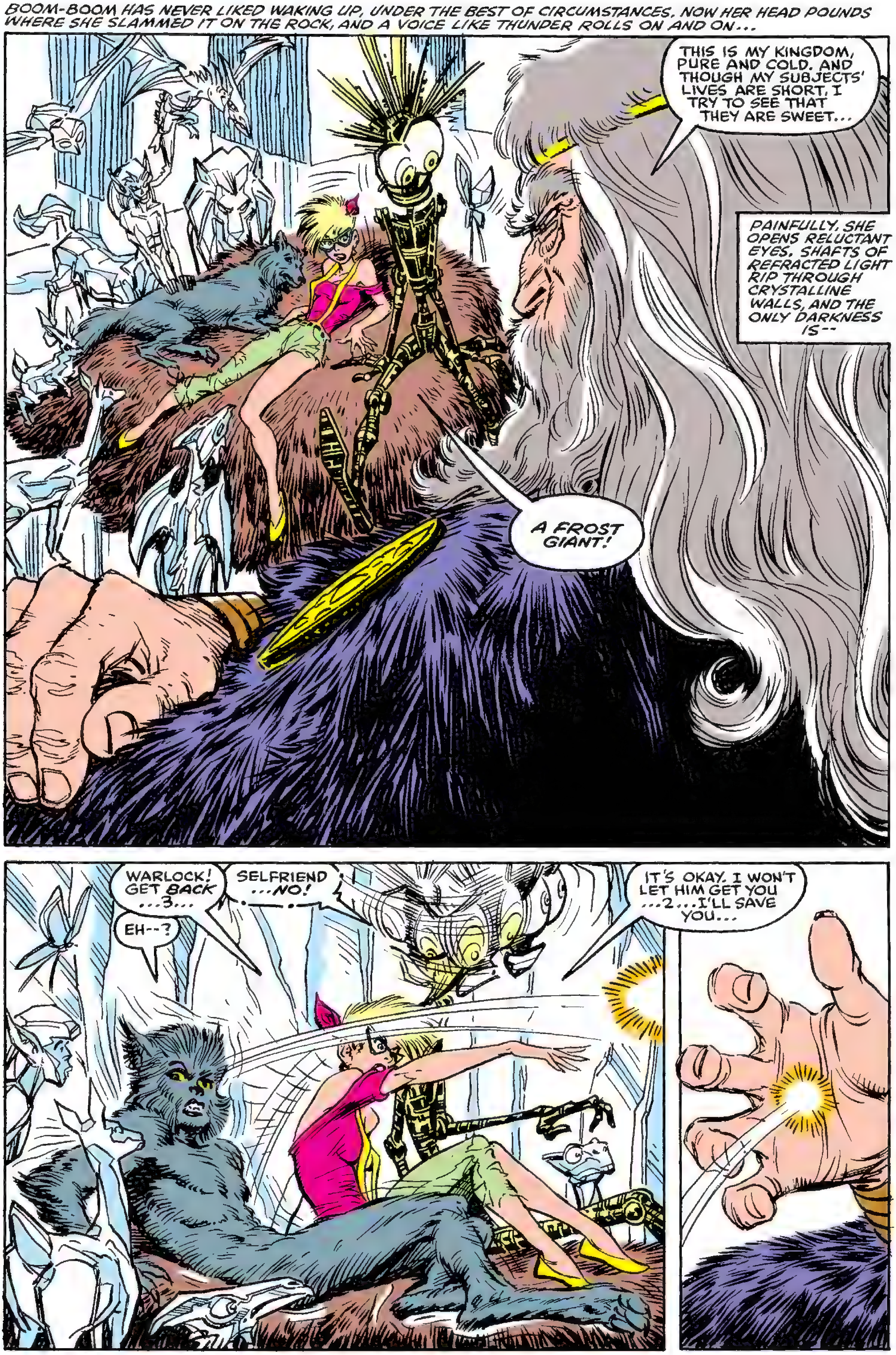
LOUISE SIMONSON Writer
BRET BLEVINS Artist
JOE ROSEN Letterer
GLYNIS OLIVER Colorist
BOB HARRAS Editor
TOM DeFALCO Editor in Chief

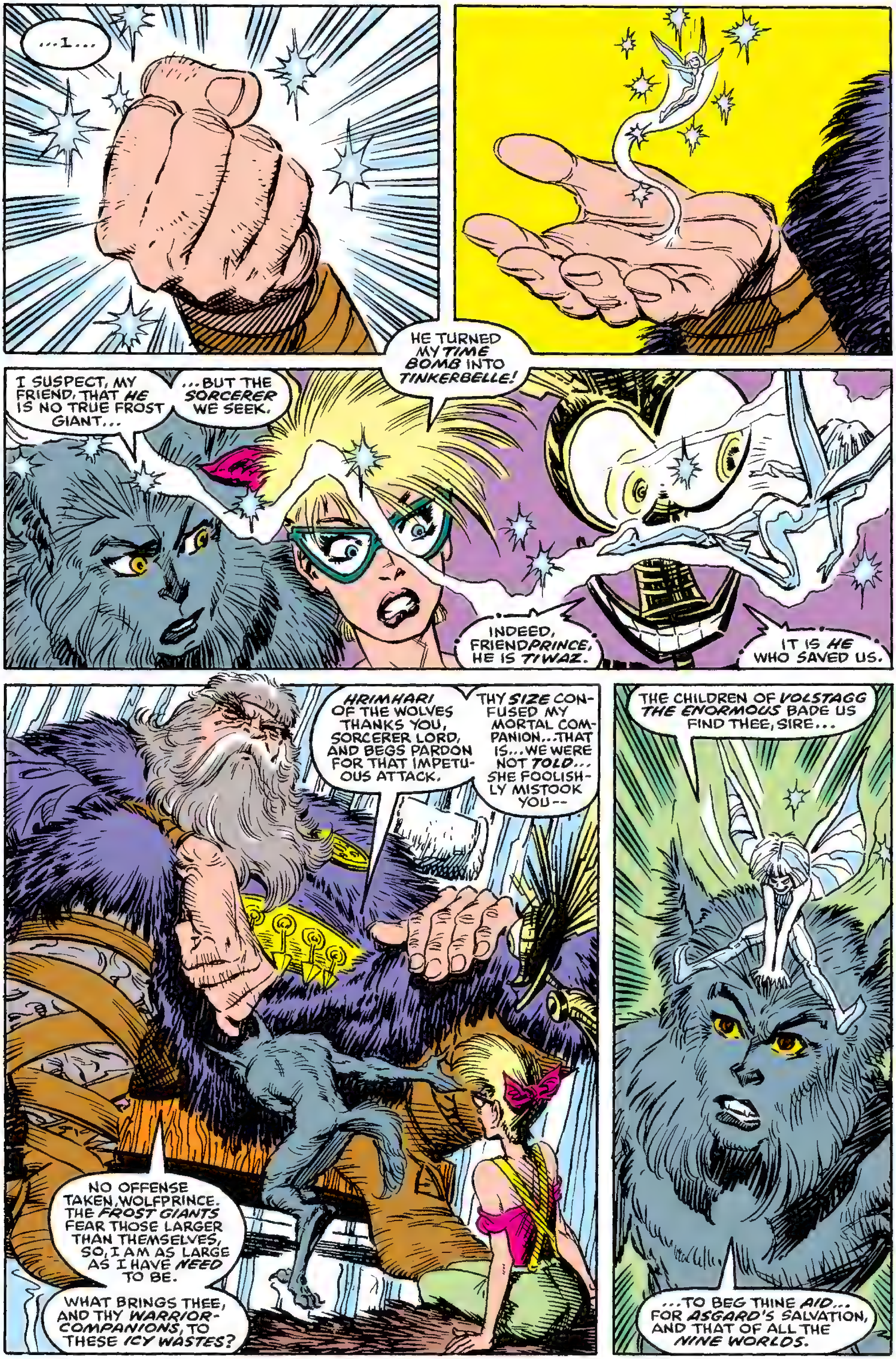
BOOM!
YEOOOW!
WELL *THROWN,* BOOM-BOOM!
WHAT THOU HAST STARTED, PRINCE *HRIMHARI* OF THE WOLVES, WILL FINISH!
SPAT!
SMAK!
WILT THOU, CUR, *SAVE* THY FRIENDS...
...WHEN THEY ARE SMASHED TO *PULP?*
THAT, MONSTER, SELF WILL NOT ALLOW!
NOR I.
CHOMP!
YELP--!!
YEIIII!

THOU SHALT NOT ESCAPE ME SO *EASILY*, THOU MECHANICAL MANTHING!
HELA CARES *NOT* WHAT HAPPENS TO THEE AND THINE, SO LONG AS THY REBELLION IS *CRUSHED!*
AWAKEN, BOOM-BOOM! GIANT IS TOO STRONG! HE *WILL* CRUSH SELF.
NOR CAN YOU FUNCTION, CREATURE, WITHOUT THY HEAD!
FREEZE!
'TIS THE WONT OF THY KIND TO BE PREDATORY, MY FRIEND...
...YET THESE *LITTLE ONES* ARE NO FITTING PREY...

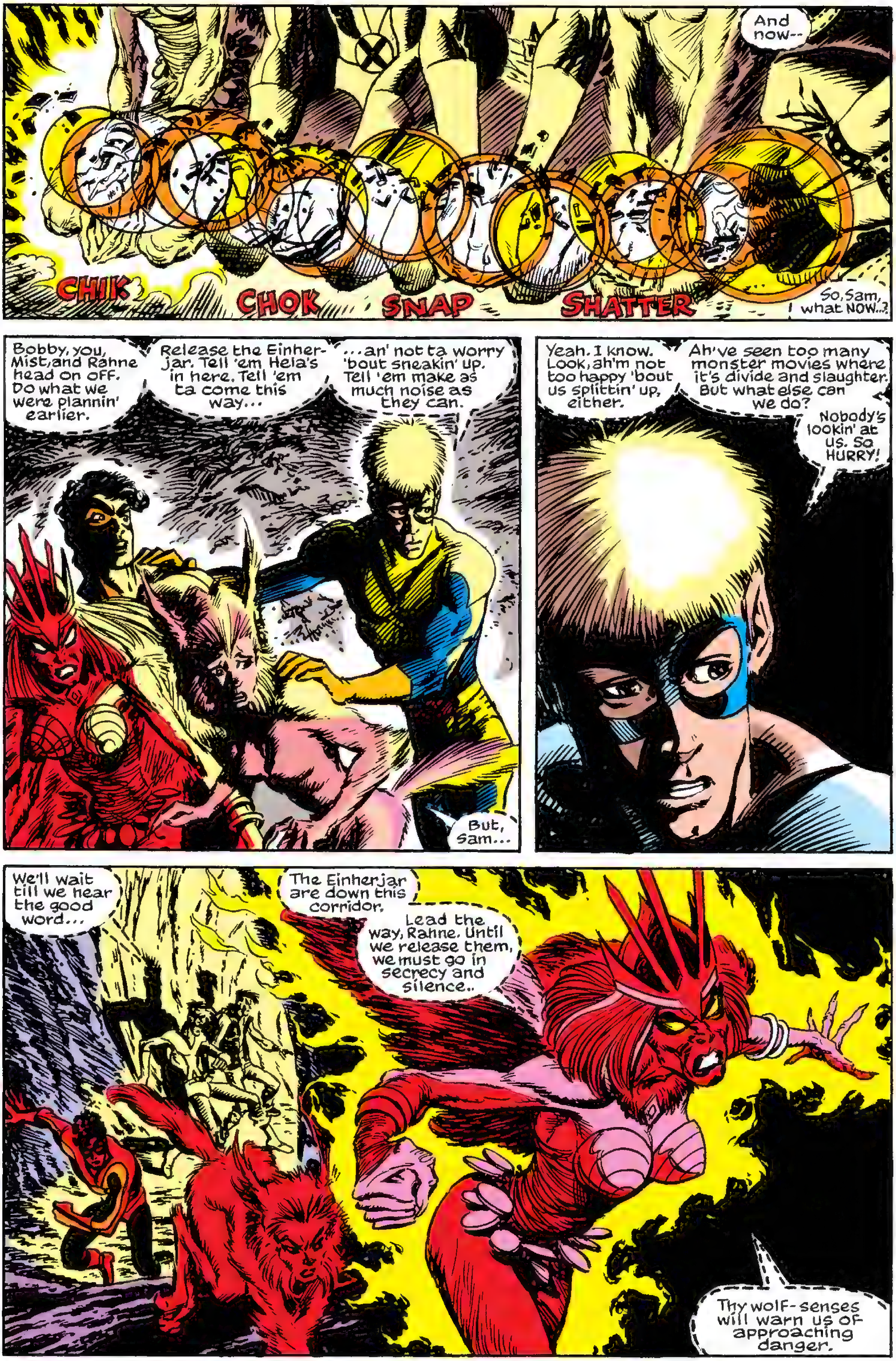

...FOR ONE OF THY STATURE.
THROUGH ICY HEL, THE VOICE RUMBLES. ANCIENT EYES PEER FROM THE SCRYING GLASS, SHARP ENOUGH TO PIERCE THE HEART OF DEATH HERSELF...
WHO...IS HE? THOUGH I KNOW HIM NOT, EVEN HERE, I SHUDDER AT HIS POWER.
WAY TA GO! LOOKS LIKE US MUTIES JUST HIT A HOMER!
I MUST MOVE QUICKLY!
DWARF-LORD EITRI, THE INGOT IS WHITE HOT!
NOW MUST THOU FASHION FOR ME A SWORD THE LIKE OF WHICH NO WORLD HAS SEEN...
...OR THY DAUGHTER'S FATE WILL BE FAR WORSE THAN DEATH.
DOOM!

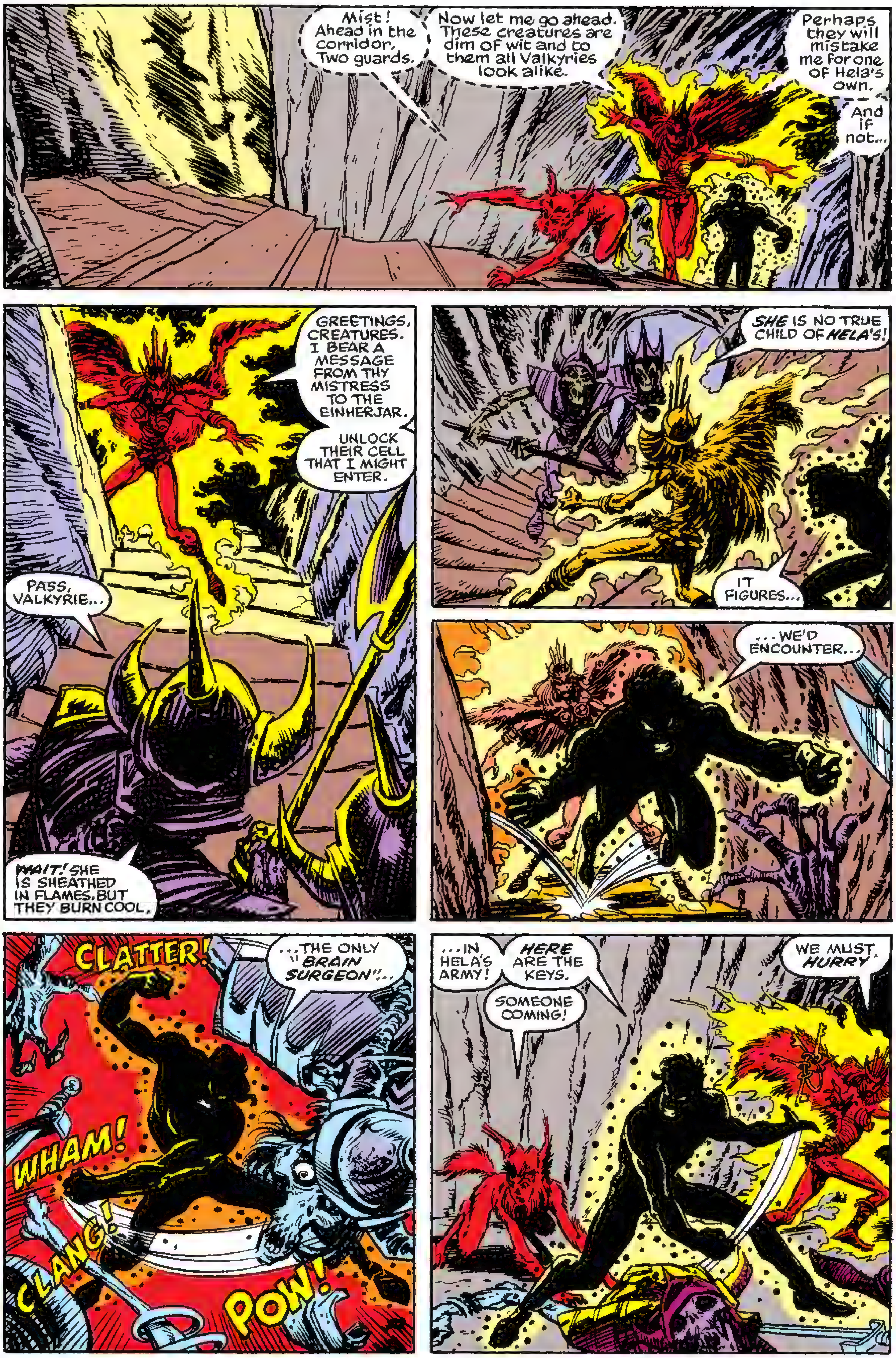

I WONDER IF THAT MYSTERIOUS GIANT HAS ANY FRIENDS IN *HEL.*
BE NICE, WOULDN'T IT? WHOEVER HE WAS, HE MADE HELA MIGHTY NERVOUS.
'TIS BAD ENOUGH THAT HELA SHOULD FORCE EITRI TO FORGE SUCH A SWORD...
...BUT 'TIS NIGH *INTOLERABLE* THAT SHE WOULD FORCE OUR WEE *DANI,* BEWITCHED AS SHE IS, TO SLAY *ODIN* WITH IT.
BUT *THAT* IS THE CRUX OF HELA'S DARK PLAN.
TO BE SLAIN IGNOMINIOUSLY, BY A MORTAL, AND IN HIS SLEEP, WILL DOOM *LORD ODIN'S* SOUL TO HEL. HELA WOULD THEN CONTROL THE *ODIN POWER.*
BUT DANI'S *MORTAL* BLOOD HELPED HER RESIST HELA'S MAGICKS, FOR A WHILE...
...AS DID MY OWN *FAERIE BLOOD.* BUT EVEN AS *DANI* FELL, IN TIME, SO SHALL I--*AARGH!*
SOON, I FEAR, I WILL BE ONE OF HELA'S OWN. I MUST ACT TO STOP HER... *SOON*... AND YET--
BLASTED CHAINS WON'T *SNAP!*
MIST IS RIGHT! WE *CAN'T* LET HELA GET AWAY WITH THIS. WE'VE GOT TO STOP HER... BUT *HOW*--?
WE CAN *STEAL* THE SWORD.
THAT MIGHT WORK... BUT WE'RE *CAPTIVES* ...*BOUND*...
THEN WE'LL HAVE TA *ESCAPE!*

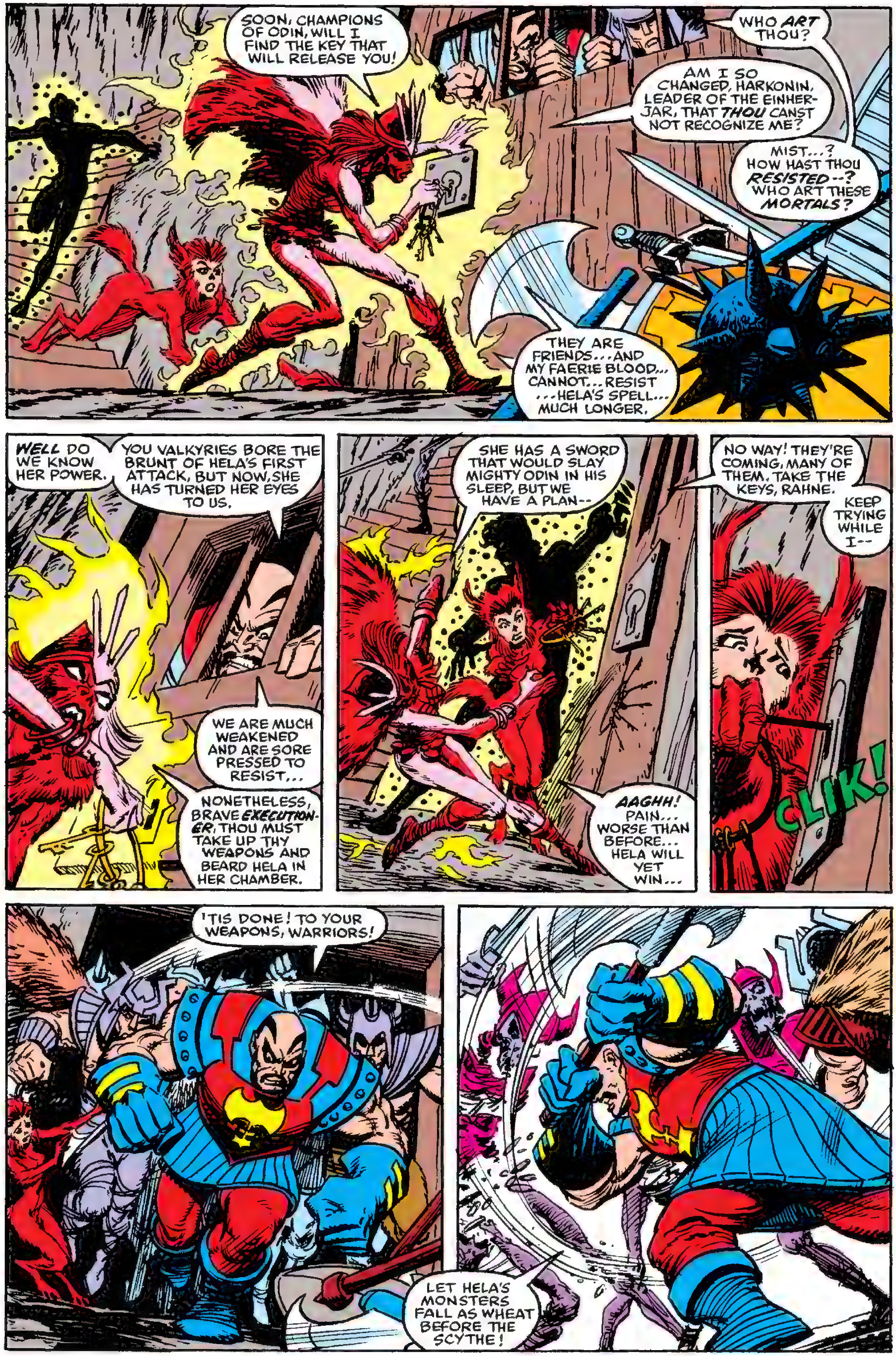

BOOM-BOOM HAS NEVER LIKED WAKING UP, UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. NOW HER HEAD POUNDS WHERE SHE SLAMMED IT ON THE ROCK, AND A VOICE LIKE THUNDER ROLLS ON AND ON...
THIS IS MY KINGDOM, PURE AND COLD. AND THOUGH MY SUBJECTS' LIVES ARE SHORT, I TRY TO SEE THAT THEY ARE SWEET...
PAINFULLY, SHE OPENS RELUCTANT EYES. SHAFTS OF REFRACTED LIGHT RIP THROUGH CRYSTALLINE WALLS, AND THE ONLY DARKNESS IS--
A FROST GIANT!
WARLOCK! GET BACK ...3...
EH--?
SELFRIEND ...NO!
IT'S OKAY. I WON'T LET HIM GET YOU ...2... I'LL SAVE YOU...

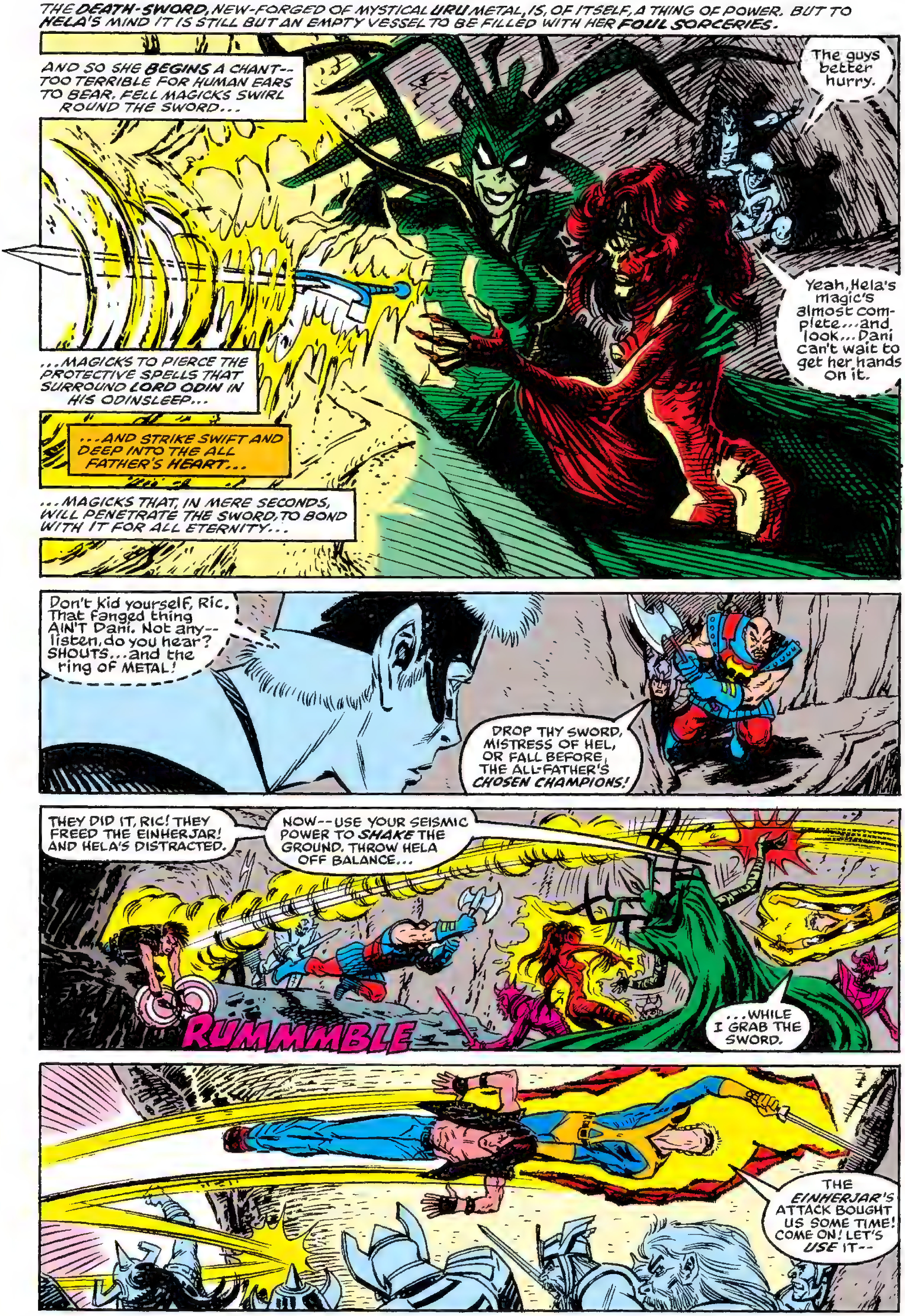

...I...
I SUSPECT, MY FRIEND, THAT *HE* IS NO TRUE FROST GIANT...
...BUT THE *SORCERER* WE SEEK.
HE TURNED MY *TIME BOMB* INTO *TINKERBELLE!*
INDEED, FRIEND*PRINCE*. HE IS *TIWAZ*.
IT IS *HE* WHO SAVED US.
HRIMHARI OF THE WOLVES THANKS YOU, SORCERER LORD, AND BEGS PARDON FOR THAT IMPETUOUS ATTACK.
THY *SIZE* CONFUSED MY MORTAL COMPANION...THAT IS...WE WERE NOT *TOLD*... SHE FOOLISHLY MISTOOK YOU--
NO OFFENSE TAKEN, WOLFPRINCE. THE *FROST GIANTS* FEAR THOSE LARGER THAN THEMSELVES, SO, I AM AS LARGE AS I HAVE *NEED* TO BE.
WHAT BRINGS THEE, AND THY *WARRIOR-COMPANIONS*, TO THESE *ICY WASTES?*
THE CHILDREN OF *VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS* BADE US FIND THEE, SIRE...
...TO BEG THINE *AID*... FOR *ASGARD'S* SALVATION, AND THAT OF ALL THE *NINE WORLDS*.

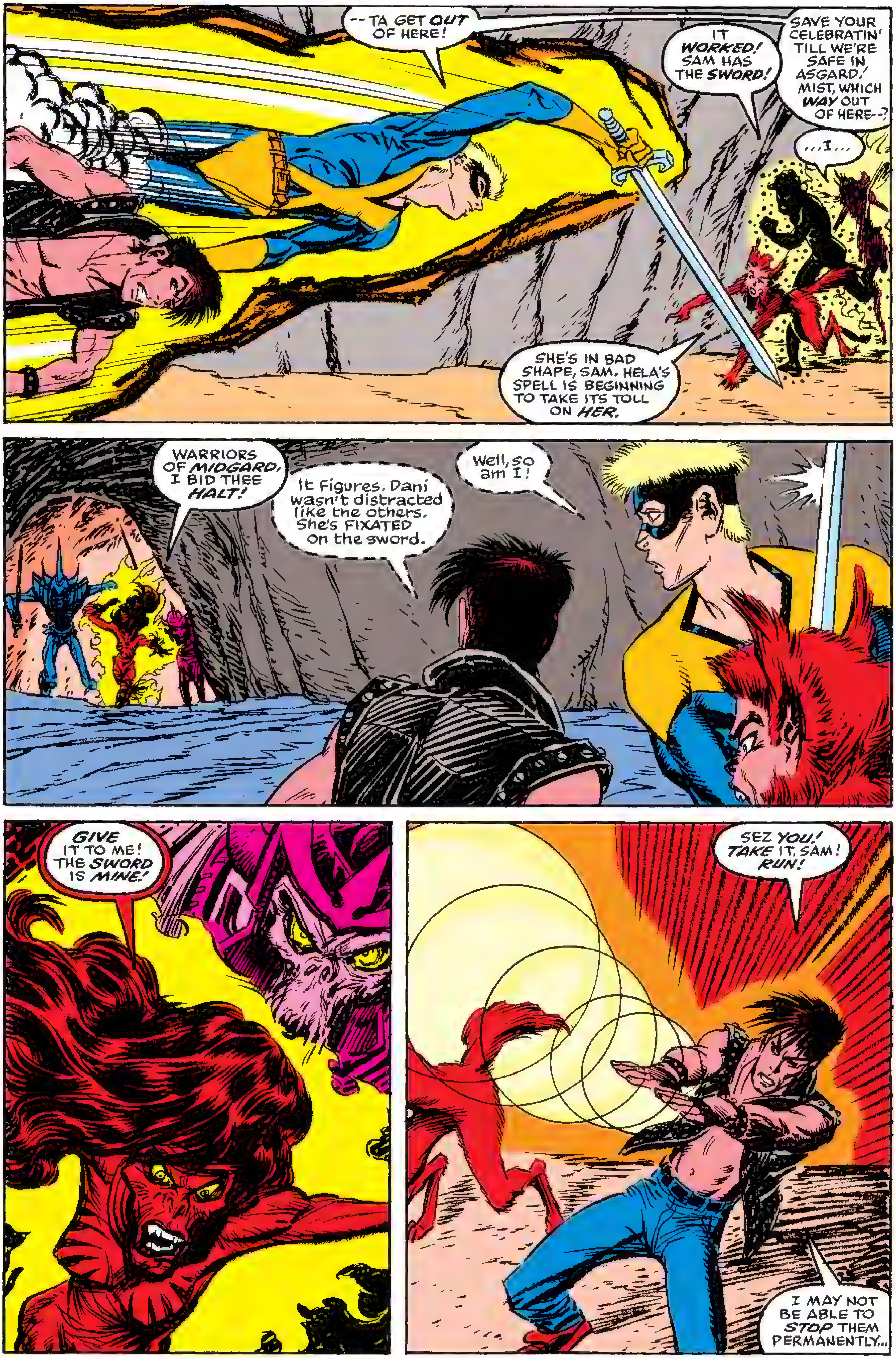
MEANWHILE, IN HEL, THE DWARF LORD EITRI HOLDS ALOFT THE NEW-FORGED DEATHSWORD...
'TIS DONE, MIGHTY HELA, TO MINE OWN ETERNAL SHAME.
NOW SHUDDER ODIN IN THY REST. DARK WILL BE THY SLEEP, AND LONG...
...AND ALL THY POWER SHALT BE MINE TO WIELD!
Nobody's watching us. We better break free now...if we...ugh...can.
Madre de dios! He's magicked these suckers but GOOD. I can't budge--
ZZRINK!
What--?! How did you...
I've been shaking up the molecules in a low level kind of way, ever since they put them on.
Hela's magic held, Bobby. It was the IRON that shattered.

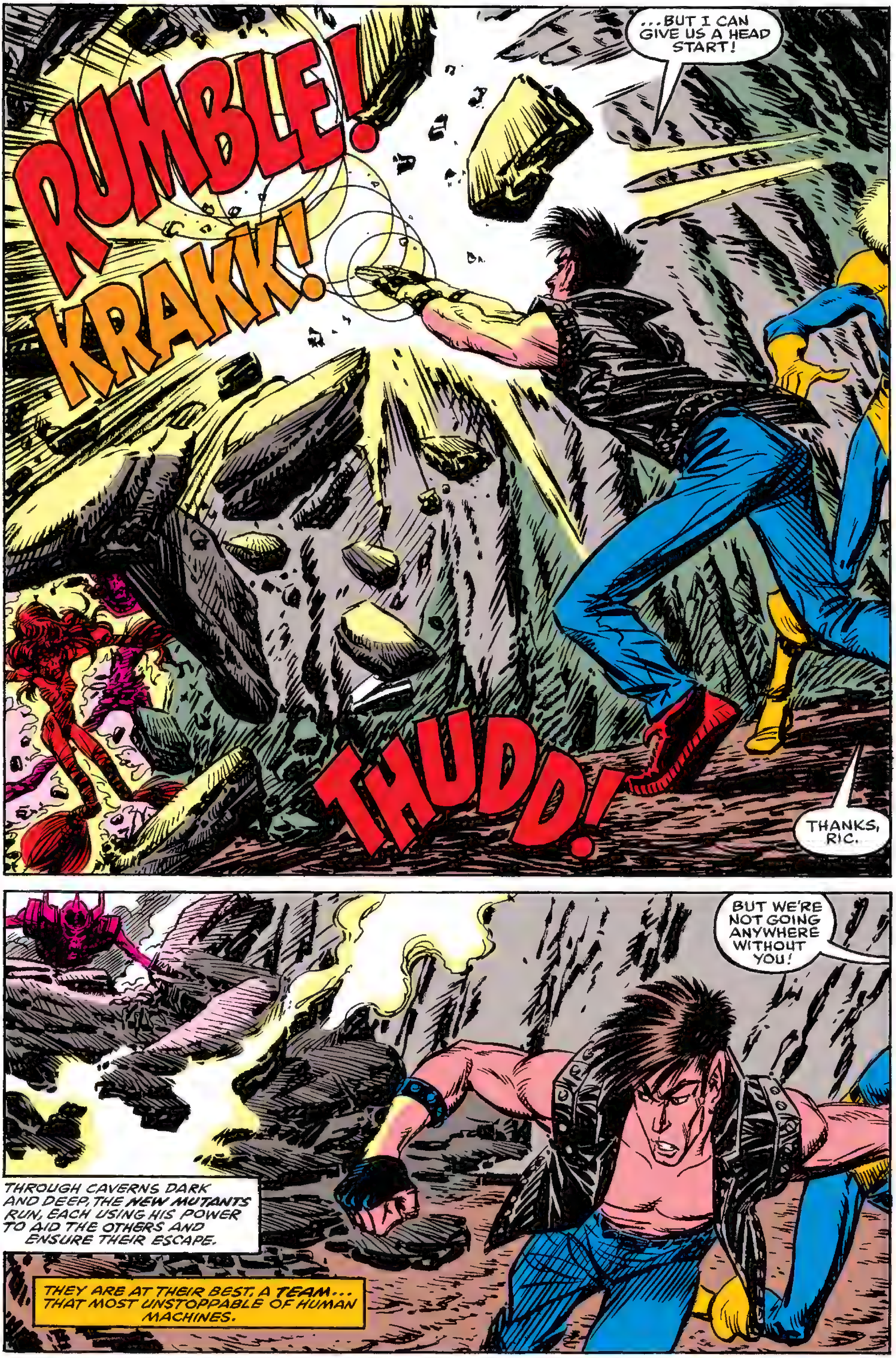

And now--
CHIK
CHOK
SNAP
SHATTER
So, Sam, what NOW...?
Bobby, you, Mist, and Rahne head on off. Do what we were plannin' earlier.
Release the Einherjar. Tell 'em Hela's in here. Tell 'em ta come this way...
...an' not ta worry 'bout sneakin' up. Tell 'em make as much noise as they can.
But, Sam...
Yeah. I know. Look, ah'm not too happy 'bout us splittin' up, either.
Ah've seen too many monster movies where it's divide and slaughter. But what else can we do?
Nobody's lookin' at us. So HURRY!
We'll wait till we hear the good word...
The Einherjar are down this corridor.
Lead the way, Rahne. Until we release them, we must go in secrecy and silence..
Thy wolf-senses will warn us of approaching danger.

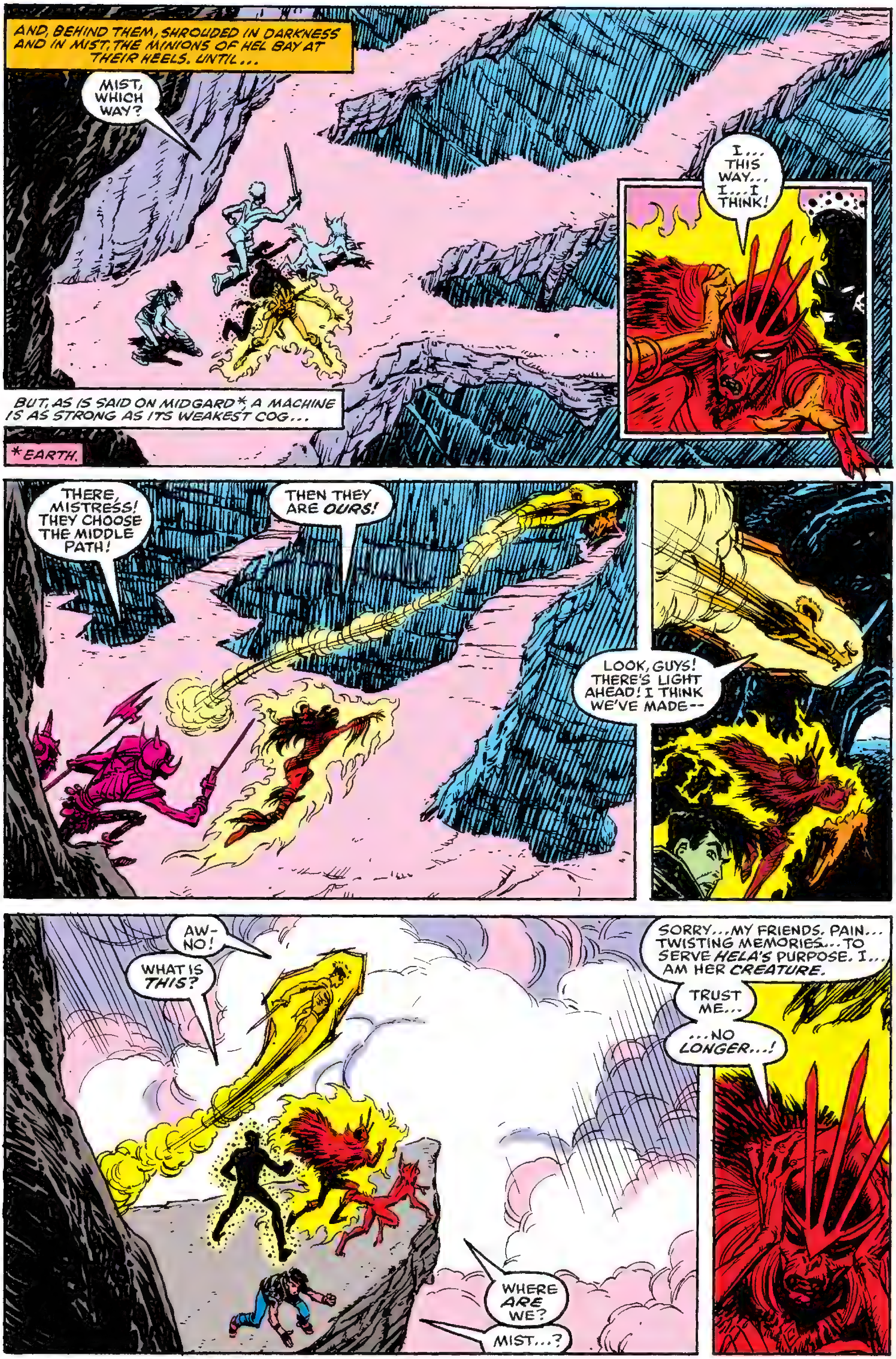

Mist! Ahead in the corridor. Two guards.
Now let me go ahead. These creatures are dim of wit and to them all Valkyries look alike.
Perhaps they will mistake me for one of Hela's own.
And if not...
GREETINGS, CREATURES. I BEAR A MESSAGE FROM THY MISTRESS TO THE EINHERJAR.
UNLOCK THEIR CELL THAT I MIGHT ENTER.
PASS, VALKYRIE...
WAIT! SHE IS SHEATHED IN FLAMES, BUT THEY BURN COOL.
SHE IS NO TRUE CHILD OF HELA'S!
IT FIGURES...
...WE'D ENCOUNTER...
CLATTER!
...THE ONLY "BRAIN SURGEON"...
WHAM!
CLANG!
POW!
...IN HELA'S ARMY!
HERE ARE THE KEYS.
SOMEONE COMING!
WE MUST HURRY


SOON, CHAMPIONS OF ODIN, WILL I FIND THE KEY THAT WILL RELEASE YOU!
WHO *ART* THOU?
AM I SO CHANGED, HARKONIN, LEADER OF THE EINHERJAR, THAT *THOU* CANST NOT RECOGNIZE ME?
MIST...? HOW HAST THOU *RESISTED*--? WHO ART THESE *MORTALS*?
THEY ARE FRIENDS... AND MY FAERIE BLOOD... CANNOT... RESIST ...HELA'S SPELL... MUCH LONGER.
WELL DO WE KNOW HER POWER.
YOU VALKYRIES BORE THE BRUNT OF HELA'S FIRST ATTACK, BUT NOW, SHE HAS TURNED HER EYES TO US.
WE ARE MUCH WEAKENED AND ARE SORE PRESSED TO RESIST...
NONETHELESS, BRAVE *EXECUTIONER*, THOU MUST TAKE UP THY WEAPONS AND BEARD HELA IN HER CHAMBER.
SHE HAS A SWORD THAT WOULD SLAY MIGHTY ODIN IN HIS SLEEP, BUT WE HAVE A PLAN--
AAGHH! PAIN... WORSE THAN BEFORE... HELA WILL YET WIN...
NO WAY! THEY'RE COMING, MANY OF THEM. TAKE THE KEYS, RAHNE.
KEEP TRYING WHILE I--
CLIK!
'TIS DONE! TO YOUR WEAPONS, WARRIORS!
LET HELA'S MONSTERS FALL AS WHEAT BEFORE THE SCYTHE!

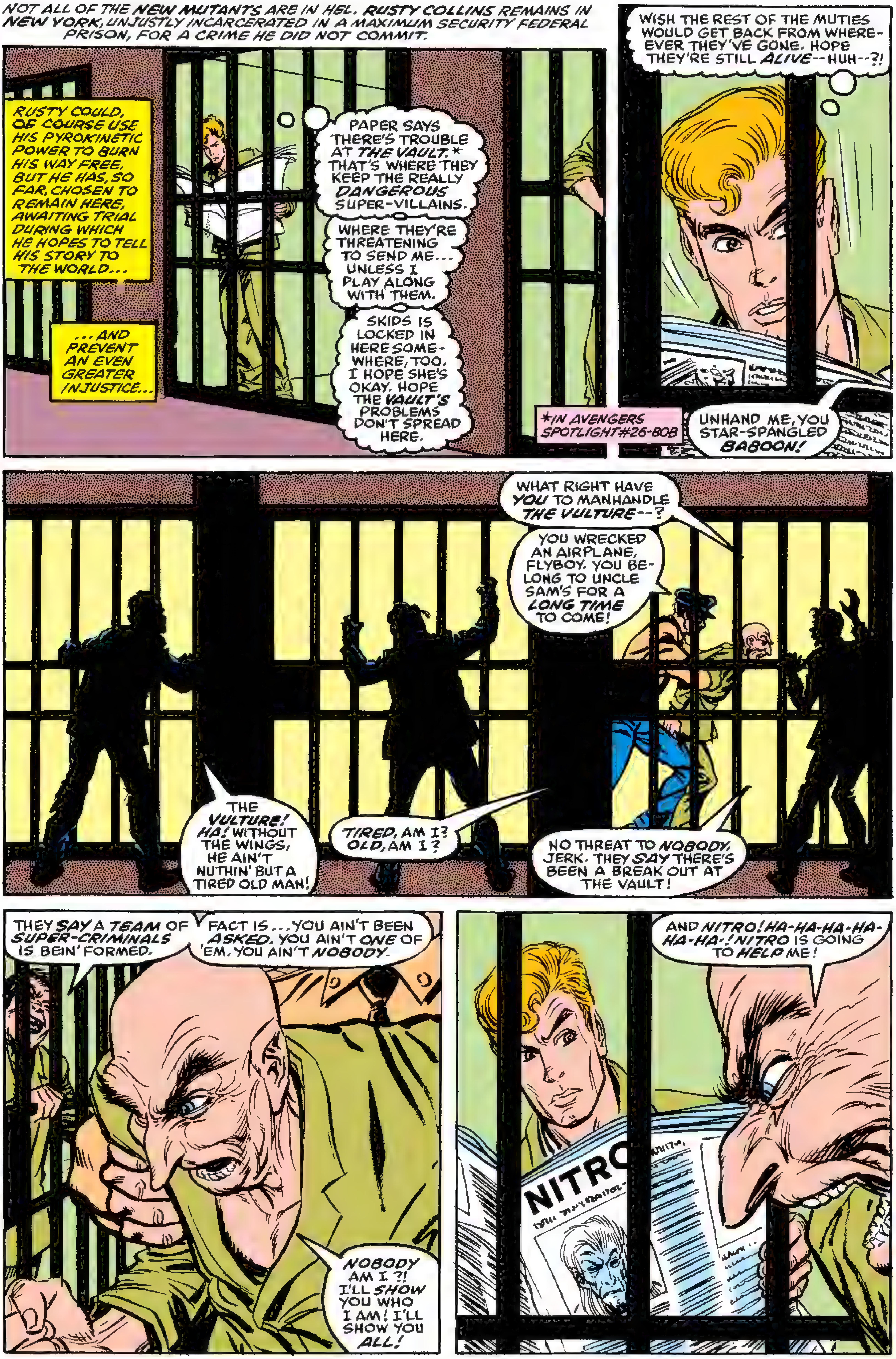

THE DEATH-SWORD, NEW-FORGED OF MYSTICAL URU METAL, IS, OF ITSELF, A THING OF POWER. BUT TO HELA'S MIND IT IS STILL BUT AN EMPTY VESSEL TO BE FILLED WITH HER FOUL SORCERIES.
AND SO SHE BEGINS A CHANT-- TOO TERRIBLE FOR HUMAN EARS TO BEAR. FELL MAGICKS SWIRL ROUND THE SWORD...
The guys better hurry.
Yeah, Hela's magic's almost complete...and look...Dani can't wait to get her hands on it.
...MAGICKS TO PIERCE THE PROTECTIVE SPELLS THAT SURROUND LORD ODIN IN HIS ODINSLEEP...
...AND STRIKE SWIFT AND DEEP INTO THE ALL FATHER'S HEART...
...MAGICKS THAT, IN MERE SECONDS, WILL PENETRATE THE SWORD, TO BOND WITH IT FOR ALL ETERNITY...
Don't kid yourself, Ric. That fanged thing AIN'T Dani. Not any-- listen, do you hear? SHOUTS...and the ring of METAL!
DROP THY SWORD, MISTRESS OF HEL, OR FALL BEFORE THE ALL-FATHER'S CHOSEN CHAMPIONS!
THEY DID IT, RIC! THEY FREED THE EINHERJAR! AND HELA'S DISTRACTED.
NOW--USE YOUR SEISMIC POWER TO SHAKE THE GROUND, THROW HELA OFF BALANCE...
RUMMMBLE
...WHILE I GRAB THE SWORD.
THE EINHERJAR'S ATTACK BOUGHT US SOME TIME! COME ON! LET'S USE IT--

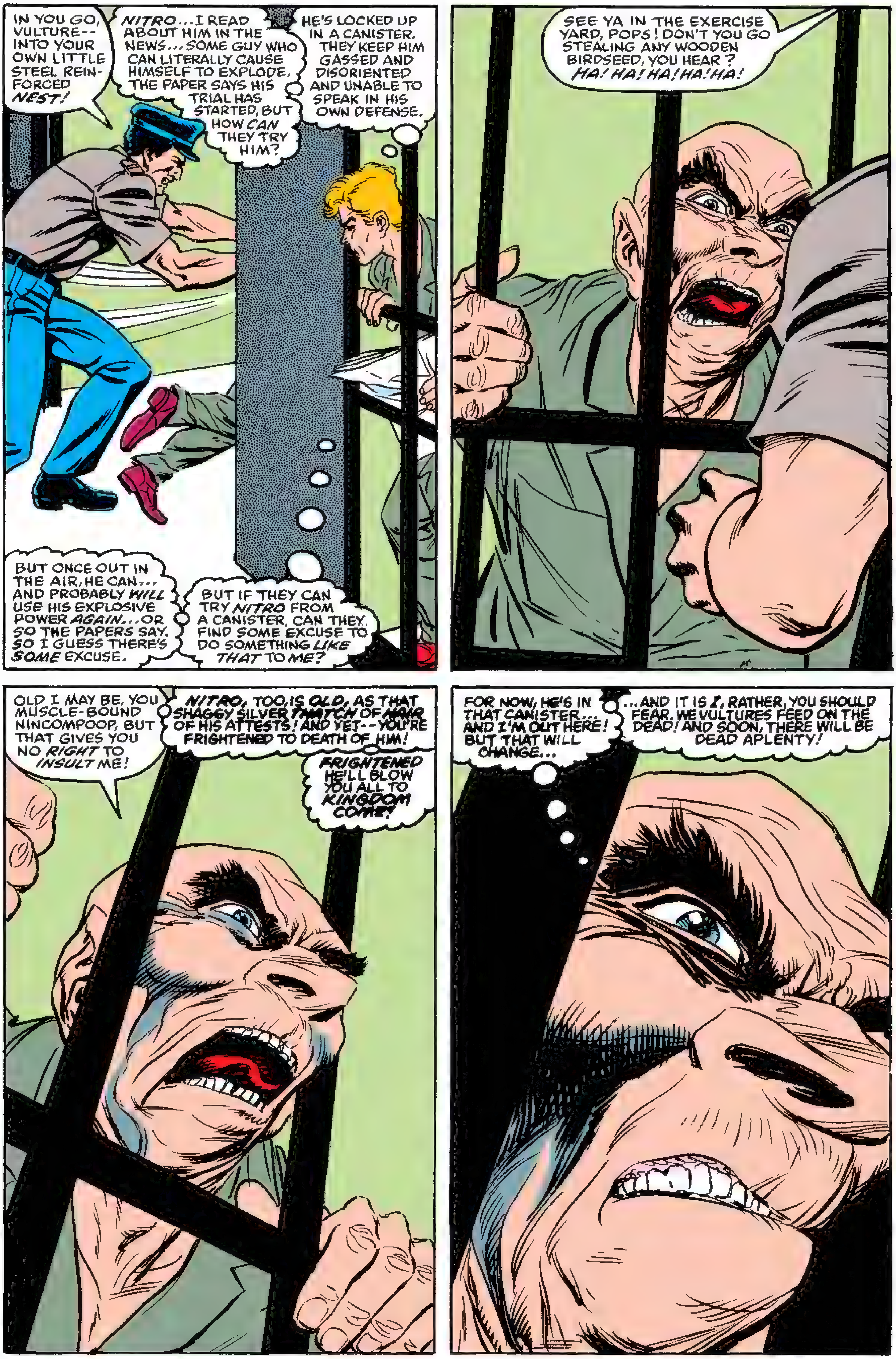

--TA GET OUT OF HERE!
IT WORKED! SAM HAS THE SWORD!
SAVE YOUR CELEBRATIN' TILL WE'RE SAFE IN ASGARD! MIST, WHICH WAY OUT OF HERE--?
...I...
SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE, SAM. HELA'S SPELL IS BEGINNING TO TAKE ITS TOLL ON HER.
WARRIORS OF MIDGARD, I BID THEE HALT!
It figures. Dani wasn't distracted like the others. She's FIXATED on the sword.
Well, so am I!
GIVE IT TO ME! THE SWORD IS MINE!
SEZ YOU! TAKE IT, SAM! RUN!
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STOP THEM PERMANENTLY...

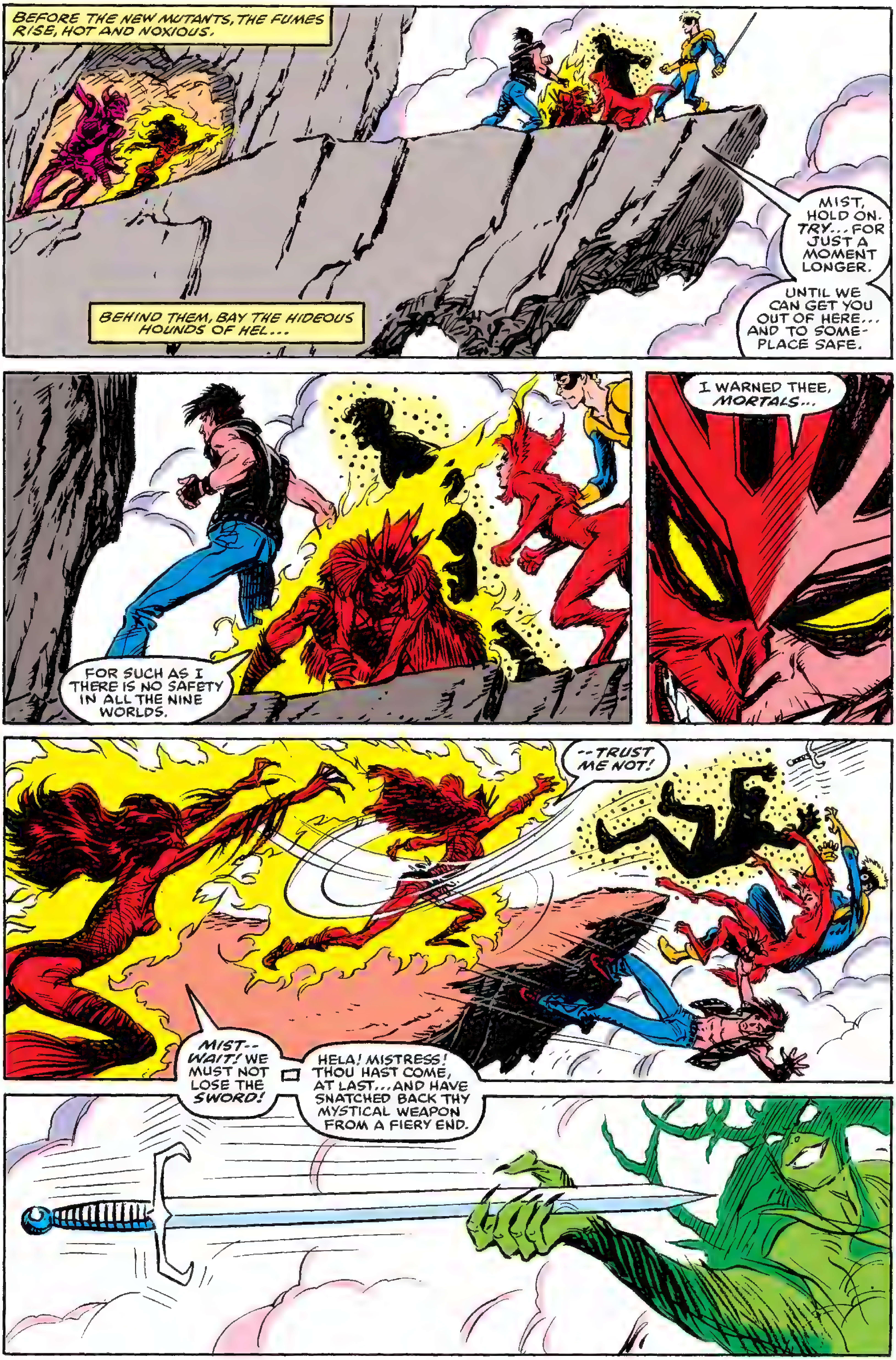

RUMBLE!
KRAKK!
...BUT I CAN GIVE US A HEAD START!
THUDD!
THANKS, RIC.
BUT WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITHOUT YOU!
THROUGH CAVERNS DARK AND DEEP, THE *NEW MUTANTS* RUN, EACH USING HIS POWER TO AID THE OTHERS AND ENSURE THEIR ESCAPE.
THEY ARE AT THEIR BEST, A *TEAM*... THAT MOST UNSTOPPABLE OF HUMAN MACHINES.

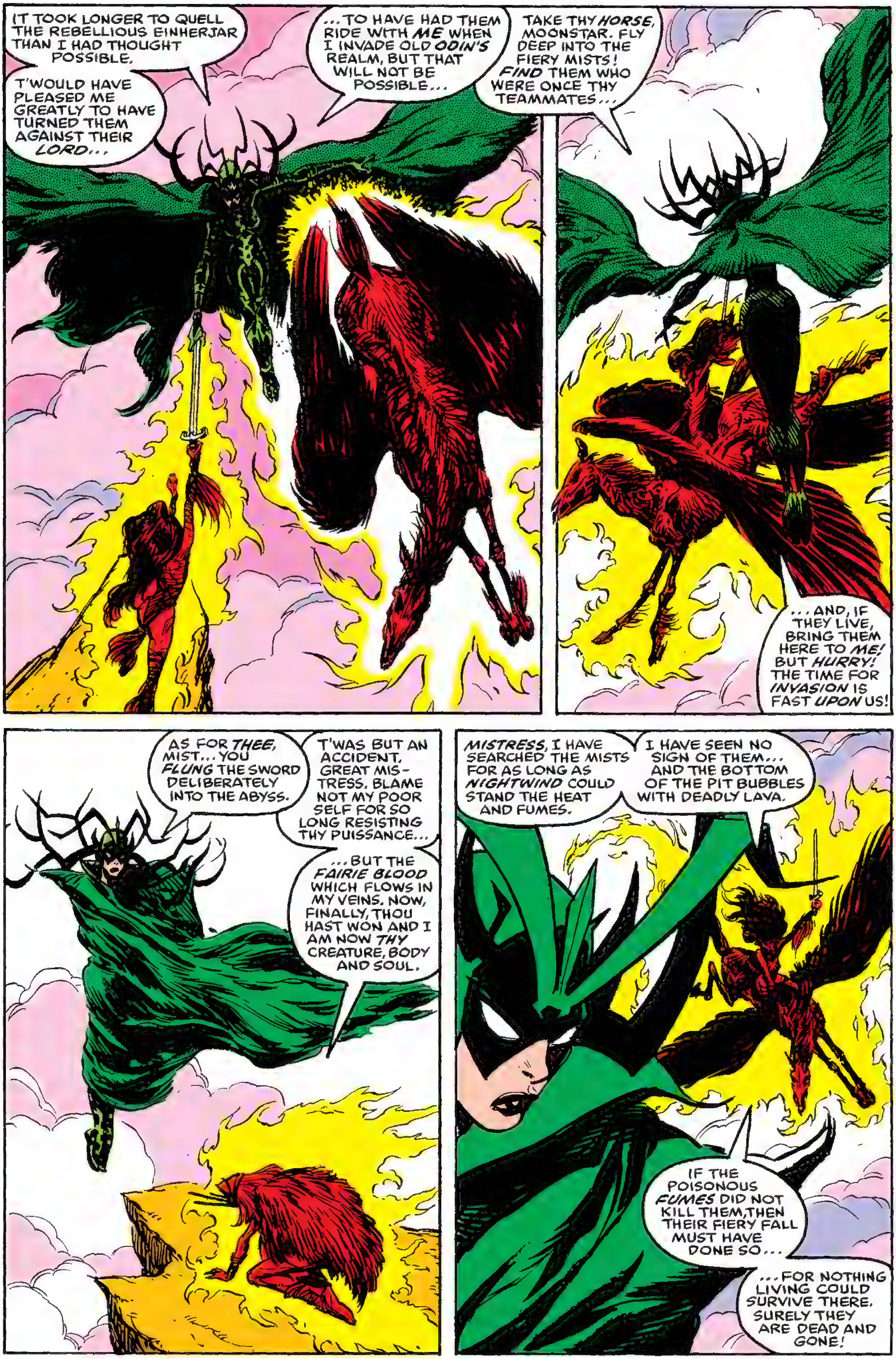

AND, BEHIND THEM, SHROUDED IN DARKNESS AND IN MIST, THE MINIONS OF HEL BAY AT THEIR HEELS. UNTIL...
MIST, WHICH WAY?
I... THIS WAY... I... I THINK!
BUT, AS IS SAID ON MIDGARD*, A MACHINE IS AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST COG...
*EARTH.
THERE, MISTRESS! THEY CHOOSE THE MIDDLE PATH!
THEN THEY ARE *OURS!*
LOOK, GUYS! THERE'S LIGHT AHEAD! I THINK WE'VE MADE--
AW-NO!
WHAT IS *THIS?*
SORRY... MY FRIENDS. PAIN... TWISTING MEMORIES... TO SERVE *HELA'S* PURPOSE. I... AM HER *CREATURE.*
TRUST ME...
...NO *LONGER...!*
WHERE *ARE* WE?
MIST...?

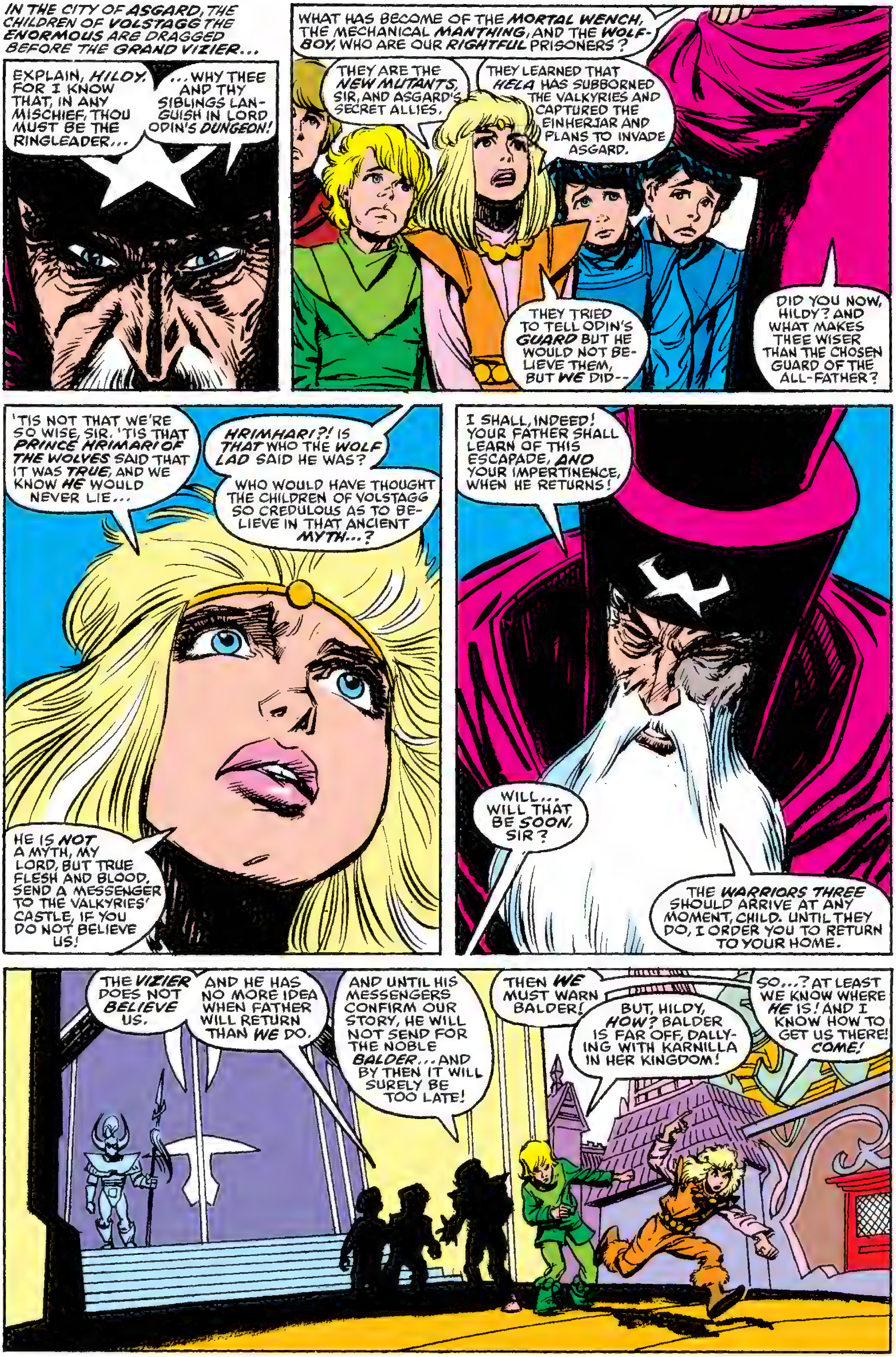
*NOT ALL OF THE **NEW MUTANTS** ARE IN HEL. **RUSTY COLLINS** REMAINS IN **NEW YORK**, UNJUSTLY INCARCERATED IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY FEDERAL PRISON, FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT.*


RUSTY COULD, OF COURSE USE HIS PYROKINETIC POWER TO BURN HIS WAY FREE. BUT HE HAS, SO FAR, CHOSEN TO REMAIN HERE, AWAITING TRIAL DURING WHICH HE HOPES TO TELL HIS STORY TO THE WORLD...
...AND PREVENT AN EVEN GREATER INJUSTICE...
PAPER SAYS THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE VAULT.* THAT'S WHERE THEY KEEP THE REALLY DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAINS.
WHERE THEY'RE THREATENING TO SEND ME... UNLESS I PLAY ALONG WITH THEM.
SKIDS IS LOCKED IN HERE SOMEWHERE, TOO. I HOPE SHE'S OKAY. HOPE THE VAULT'S PROBLEMS DON'T SPREAD HERE.
*IN AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #26-BOB
WISH THE REST OF THE MUTIES WOULD GET BACK FROM WHEREEVER THEY'VE GONE. HOPE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE--HUH--?!
UNHAND ME, YOU STAR-SPANGLED BABOON!
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO MANHANDLE THE VULTURE--?
YOU WRECKED AN AIRPLANE, FLYBOY. YOU BELONG TO UNCLE SAM'S FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!
THE VULTURE! HA! WITHOUT THE WINGS, HE AIN'T NUTHIN' BUT A TIRED OLD MAN!
TIRED, AM I? OLD, AM I?
NO THREAT TO NOBODY, JERK. THEY SAY THERE'S BEEN A BREAK OUT AT THE VAULT!
THEY SAY A TEAM OF SUPER-CRIMINALS IS BEIN' FORMED.
FACT IS...YOU AIN'T BEEN ASKED. YOU AIN'T ONE OF 'EM. YOU AIN'T NOBODY.
NOBODY AM I?! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO I AM! I'LL SHOW YOU ALL!
AND NITRO! HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-! NITRO IS GOING TO HELP ME!
NITRO

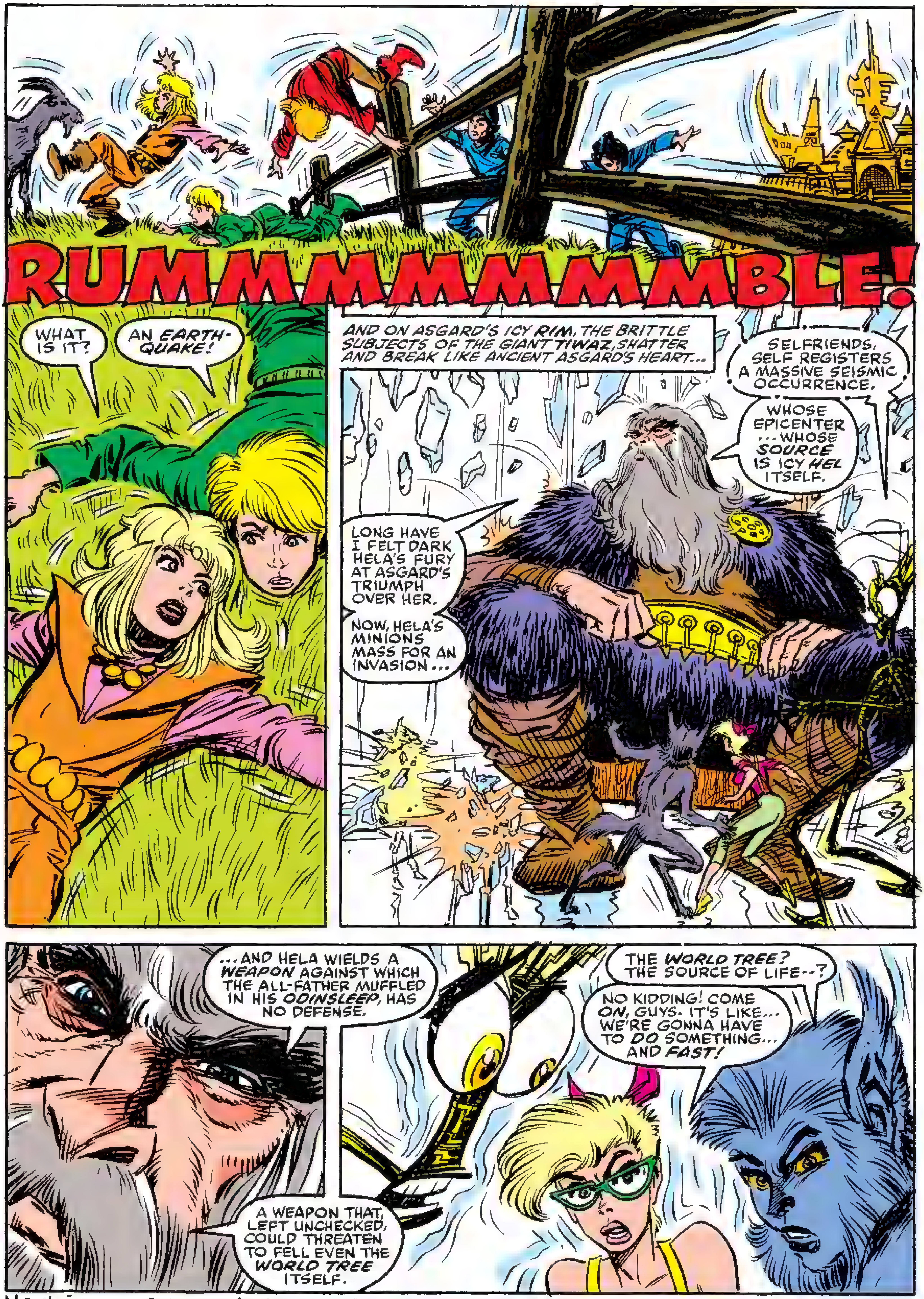

IN YOU GO, VULTURE-- INTO YOUR OWN LITTLE STEEL REINFORCED NEST!
NITRO...I READ ABOUT HIM IN THE NEWS...SOME GUY WHO CAN LITERALLY CAUSE HIMSELF TO EXPLODE. THE PAPER SAYS HIS TRIAL HAS STARTED, BUT HOW CAN THEY TRY HIM?
HE'S LOCKED UP IN A CANISTER. THEY KEEP HIM GASSED AND DISORIENTED AND UNABLE TO SPEAK IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.
BUT ONCE OUT IN THE AIR, HE CAN... AND PROBABLY WILL USE HIS EXPLOSIVE POWER AGAIN...OR SO THE PAPERS SAY. SO I GUESS THERE'S SOME EXCUSE.
BUT IF THEY CAN TRY NITRO FROM A CANISTER, CAN THEY FIND SOME EXCUSE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME?
SEE YA IN THE EXERCISE YARD, POPS! DON'T YOU GO STEALING ANY WOODEN BIRDSEED, YOU HEAR? HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
OLD I MAY BE, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND NINCOMPOOP, BUT THAT GIVES YOU NO RIGHT TO INSULT ME!
NITRO, TOO, IS OLD, AS THAT SHAGGY SILVER THATCH OF HAIR OF HIS ATTESTS! AND YET--YOU'RE FRIGHTENED TO DEATH OF HIM!
FRIGHTENED HE'LL BLOW YOU ALL TO KINGDOM COME!
FOR NOW, HE'S IN THAT CANISTER... AND I'M OUT HERE! BUT THAT WILL CHANGE...
...AND IT IS I, RATHER, YOU SHOULD FEAR. WE VULTURES FEED ON THE DEAD! AND SOON, THERE WILL BE DEAD APLENTY!


BEFORE THE NEW MUTANTS, THE FUMES RISE, HOT AND NOXIOUS.
BEHIND THEM, BAY THE HIDEOUS HOUNDS OF HEL...
MIST, HOLD ON. TRY... FOR JUST A MOMENT LONGER.
UNTIL WE CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE... AND TO SOMEPLACE SAFE.
FOR SUCH AS I THERE IS NO SAFETY IN ALL THE NINE WORLDS.
I WARNED THEE, MORTALS...
--TRUST ME NOT!
MIST-- WAIT! WE MUST NOT LOSE THE SWORD!
HELA! MISTRESS! THOU HAST COME, AT LAST... AND HAVE SNATCHED BACK THY MYSTICAL WEAPON FROM A FIERY END.


IT TOOK LONGER TO QUELL THE REBELLIOUS EINHERJAR THAN I HAD THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
T'WOULD HAVE PLEASED ME GREATLY TO HAVE TURNED THEM AGAINST THEIR *LORD*...
...TO HAVE HAD THEM RIDE WITH *ME* WHEN I INVADE OLD *ODIN'S* REALM, BUT THAT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE...
TAKE THY *HORSE*, MOONSTAR. FLY DEEP INTO THE FIERY MISTS! *FIND* THEM WHO WERE ONCE THY TEAMMATES...
...AND, IF THEY LIVE, BRING THEM HERE TO *ME!* BUT *HURRY!* THE TIME FOR *INVASION* IS FAST *UPON* US!
AS FOR *THEE*, MIST...YOU *FLUNG* THE SWORD DELIBERATELY INTO THE ABYSS.
T'WAS BUT AN ACCIDENT, GREAT MISTRESS. BLAME NOT MY POOR SELF FOR SO LONG RESISTING THY PUISSANCE...
...BUT THE *FAIRIE BLOOD* WHICH FLOWS IN MY VEINS. NOW, FINALLY, THOU HAST WON AND I AM NOW *THY* CREATURE, BODY AND SOUL.
MISTRESS, I HAVE SEARCHED THE MISTS FOR AS LONG AS *NIGHTWIND* COULD STAND THE HEAT AND FUMES.
I HAVE SEEN NO SIGN OF THEM... AND THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT BUBBLES WITH DEADLY LAVA.
IF THE POISONOUS *FUMES* DID NOT KILL THEM, THEN THEIR FIERY FALL MUST HAVE DONE SO...
...FOR NOTHING LIVING COULD SURVIVE THERE. SURELY THEY ARE DEAD AND GONE!


IN THE CITY OF ASGARD, THE CHILDREN OF VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS ARE DRAGGED BEFORE THE GRAND VIZIER...
EXPLAIN, HILDY. FOR I KNOW THAT, IN ANY MISCHIEF, THOU MUST BE THE RINGLEADER...
...WHY THEE AND THY SIBLINGS LANGUISH IN LORD ODIN'S DUNGEON!
WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE MORTAL WENCH, THE MECHANICAL MANTHING, AND THE WOLF-BOY, WHO ARE OUR RIGHTFUL PRISONERS?
THEY ARE THE NEW MUTANTS, SIR, AND ASGARD'S SECRET ALLIES.
THEY LEARNED THAT HELA HAS SUBBORNED THE VALKYRIES AND CAPTURED THE EINHERJAR AND PLANS TO INVADE ASGARD.
THEY TRIED TO TELL ODIN'S GUARD BUT HE WOULD NOT BELIEVE THEM, BUT WE DID--
DID YOU NOW, HILDY? AND WHAT MAKES THEE WISER THAN THE CHOSEN GUARD OF THE ALL-FATHER?
'TIS NOT THAT WE'RE SO WISE, SIR. 'TIS THAT PRINCE HRIMARI OF THE WOLVES SAID THAT IT WAS TRUE, AND WE KNOW HE WOULD NEVER LIE...
HRIMHARI?! IS THAT WHO THE WOLF LAD SAID HE WAS?
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE CHILDREN OF VOLSTAGG SO CREDULOUS AS TO BELIEVE IN THAT ANCIENT MYTH...?
HE IS NOT A MYTH, MY LORD, BUT TRUE FLESH AND BLOOD. SEND A MESSENGER TO THE VALKYRIES' CASTLE, IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE US!
I SHALL, INDEED! YOUR FATHER SHALL LEARN OF THIS ESCAPADE, AND YOUR IMPERTINENCE, WHEN HE RETURNS!
WILL... WILL THAT BE SOON, SIR?
THE WARRIORS THREE SHOULD ARRIVE AT ANY MOMENT, CHILD. UNTIL THEY DO, I ORDER YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME.
THE VIZIER DOES NOT BELIEVE US.
AND HE HAS NO MORE IDEA WHEN FATHER WILL RETURN THAN WE DO.
AND UNTIL HIS MESSENGERS CONFIRM OUR STORY, HE WILL NOT SEND FOR THE NOBLE BALDER... AND BY THEN IT WILL SURELY BE TOO LATE!
THEN WE MUST WARN BALDER!
BUT, HILDY, HOW? BALDER IS FAR OFF, DALLYING WITH KARNILLA IN HER KINGDOM!
SO...? AT LEAST WE KNOW WHERE HE IS! AND I KNOW HOW TO GET US THERE! COME!

THE AIR OF HEL CRACKLES WITH PULSING SORCERIES, AS HELA'S INTERRUPTED SWORD-SPELL IS RESUMED.
EVERY SYLLABLE IS A SOUND OF POWER, RESONATING, A PHYSICS BEYOND LOGIC...
...BINDING DARK ENERGIES TO THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE SWORD TO CREATE A WEAPON THAT IS THE BETRAYAL OF ORDER AND REASON...
A WRETCHED FANG OF SORCERY-MOST-POISONOUS TO STRIKE AT THE ALL-FATHER'S HEART.
IN A BLINDING FLASH, IT IS OVER. THE DEATH SWORD IS COMPLETE...
...AND ALL OF ASGARD TREMBLES.


RUMMMMMMMBLE!
WHAT IS IT?
AN EARTHQUAKE!
AND ON ASGARD'S ICY RIM, THE BRITTLE SUBJECTS OF THE GIANT TIWAZ SHATTER AND BREAK LIKE ANCIENT ASGARD'S HEART...
SELFRIENDS, SELF REGISTERS A MASSIVE SEISMIC OCCURRENCE,
WHOSE EPICENTER ...WHOSE SOURCE IS ICY HEL ITSELF.
LONG HAVE I FELT DARK HELA'S FURY AT ASGARD'S TRIUMPH OVER HER.
NOW, HELA'S MINIONS MASS FOR AN INVASION...
...AND HELA WIELDS A WEAPON AGAINST WHICH THE ALL-FATHER MUFFLED IN HIS ODINSLEEP, HAS NO DEFENSE.
A WEAPON THAT, LEFT UNCHECKED, COULD THREATEN TO FELL EVEN THE WORLD TREE ITSELF.
THE WORLD TREE? THE SOURCE OF LIFE--?
NO KIDDING! COME ON, GUYS. IT'S LIKE... WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... AND FAST!

Next issue: *BALDER! KARNILLA! THE WARRIORS THREE! THOR'S GOATS... AND EVEN QUEEN ULA AND THE FLYING TROLLS!*

THE SWORD'S EDGE!

A STORY OF HEROISM! OF MAGICK! OF PROMISES FULFILLED!

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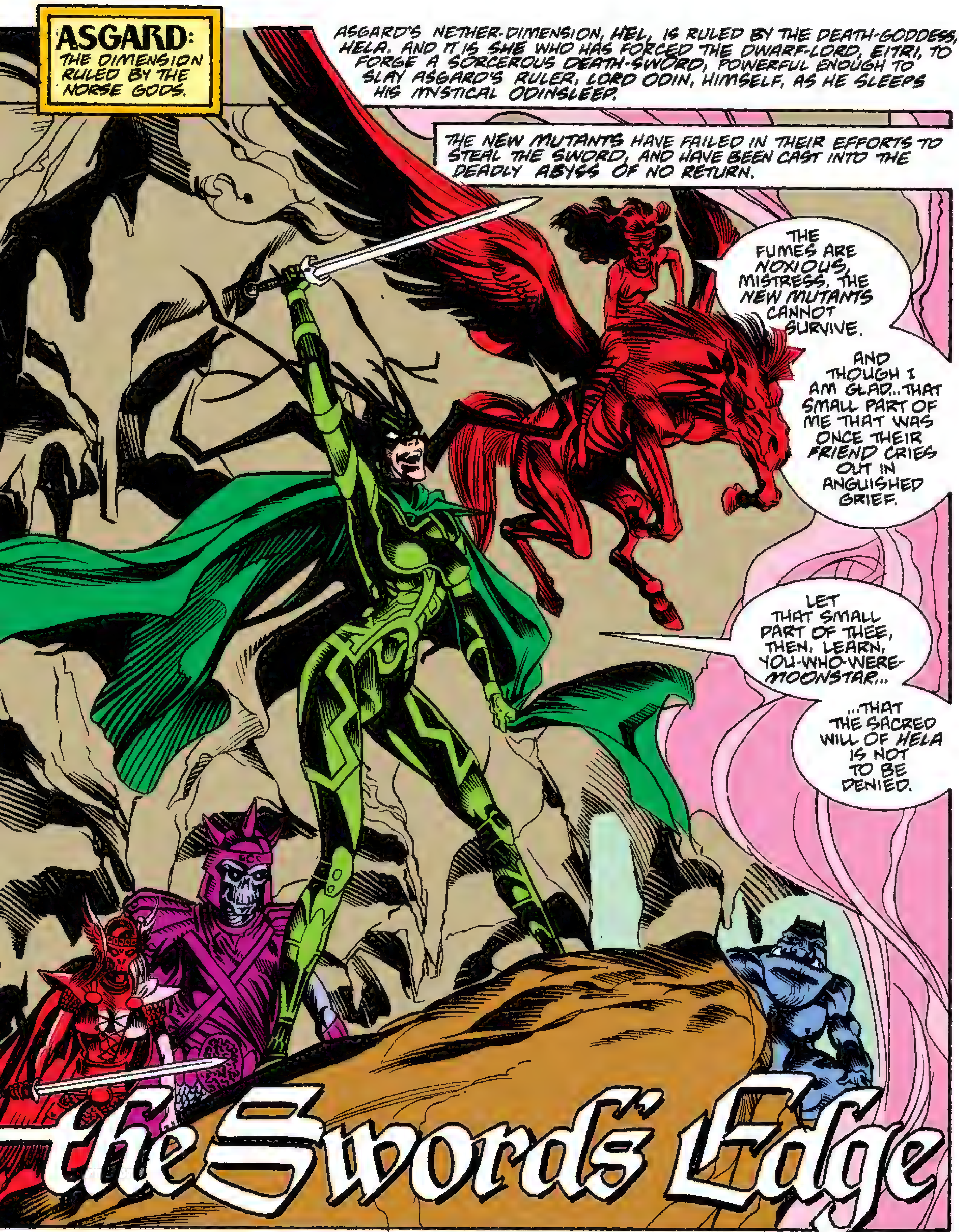
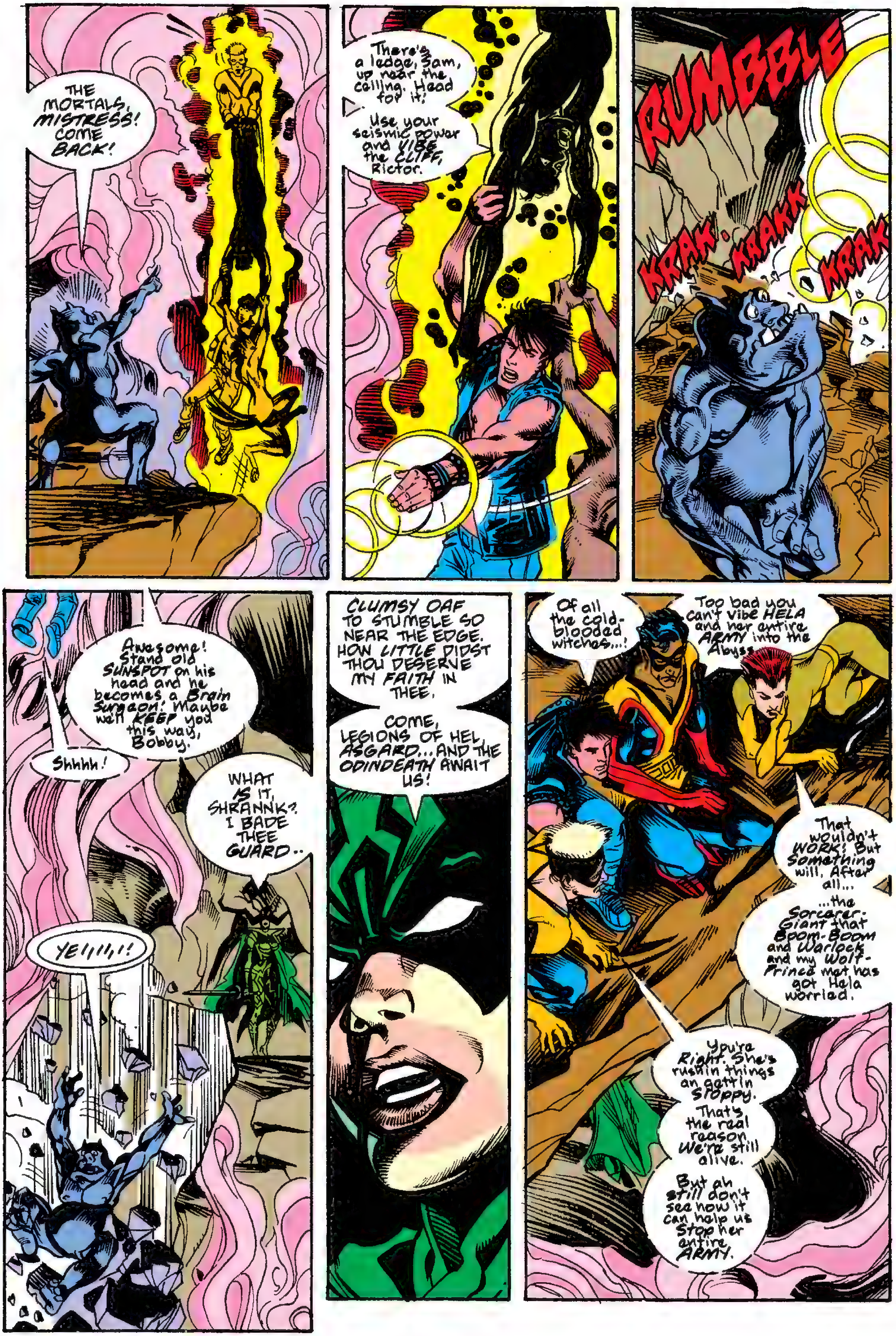

ASGARD: THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE NORSE GODS.
ASGARD'S NETHER-DIMENSION, HEL, IS RULED BY THE DEATH-GODDESS, HELA. AND IT IS SHE WHO HAS FORCED THE DWARF-LORD, EITRI, TO FORGE A SORCEROUS DEATH-SWORD, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SLAY ASGARD'S RULER, LORD ODIN, HIMSELF, AS HE SLEEPS HIS MYSTICAL ODINSLEEP.
THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE FAILED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STEAL THE SWORD, AND HAVE BEEN CAST INTO THE DEADLY ABYSS OF NO RETURN.
THE FUMES ARE NOXIOUS, MISTRESS. THE NEW MUTANTS CANNOT SURVIVE.
AND THOUGH I AM GLAD... THAT SMALL PART OF ME THAT WAS ONCE THEIR FRIEND CRIES OUT IN ANGUISHED GRIEF.
LET THAT SMALL PART OF THEE, THEN, LEARN, YOU-WHO-WERE-MOONSTAR...
...THAT THE SACRED WILL OF HELA IS NOT TO BE DENIED.
the Sword's Edge

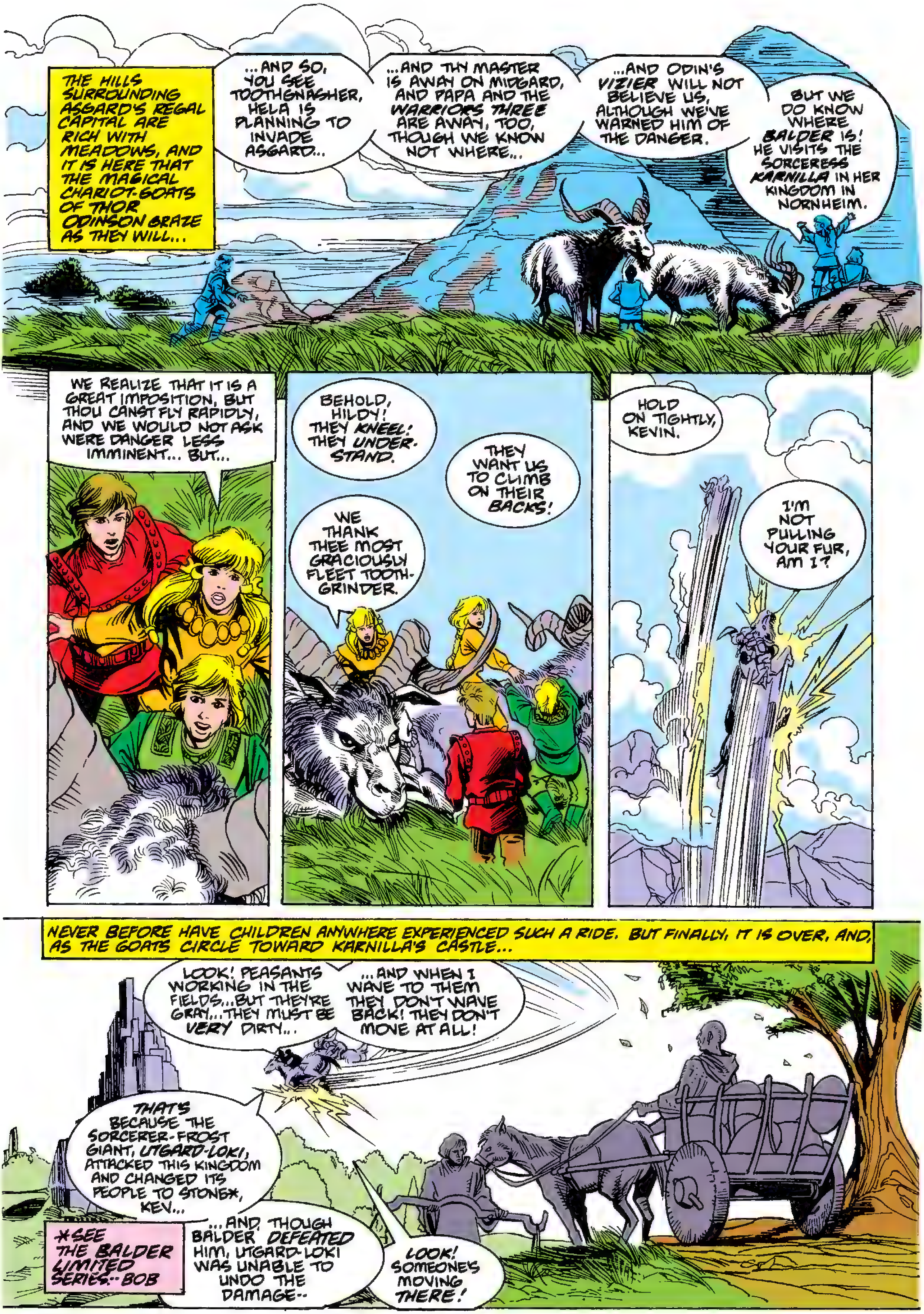
Louise Simonson-writer * Terry Shoemaker-penciler * Al Milgrom- inker
Ken Bruzenak-letterer * Glynis Oliver-colorist * Bob Harras-editor * Tom Defalco-chief

SOON YOUR FORMER COMRADES WILL BE *DEAD*... AND THEIR SOULS WILL BE *MINE*.
Are they still *up there*, Rahne?
Yes, Bobby... :coff:... I can *hear* them.
You're coughing. Don't talk, Rahne. Just nod.
'Tis all right, Sam. We're as protected by your *Blast Field* as you are.
That's the problem. Fumes :coff: 're seepin' in... we're *all* havin' trouble breathin'...
...an' ah'm beginnin' ta have trouble blastin'.
No kidding. I have a great view of the *lava lake* at the bottom of this *Abyss*... and it's *coming up fast!*
It's all right now, Sam. We can go up, if we're careful.
Hela's :coff: moved away, though she's left behind...
...a single *Guard*...
Now you tell us.
HUH..?

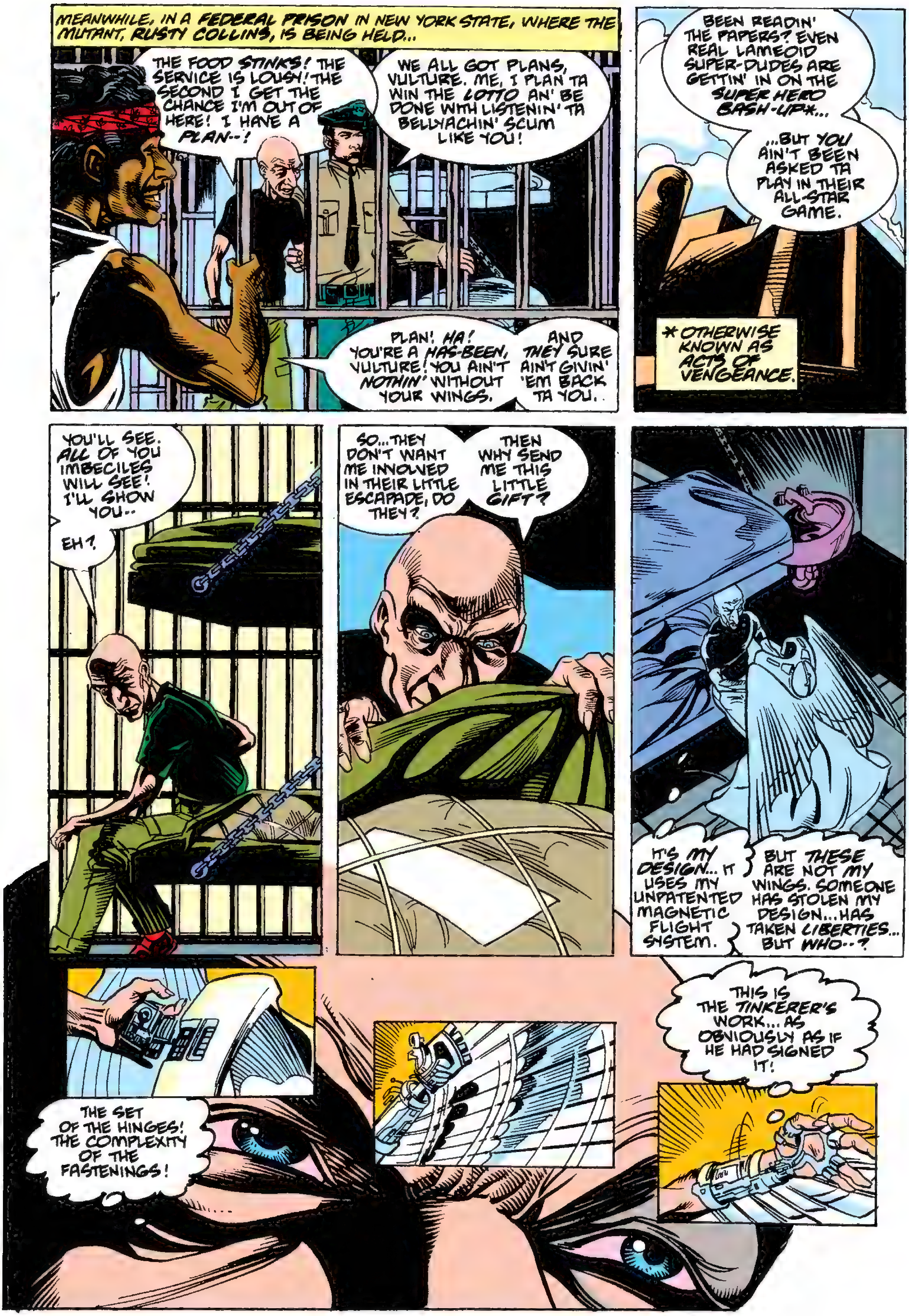

THE MORTALS, MISTRESS! COME BACK!
There's a ledge, Sam, up near the ceiling. Head for it!
Use your seismic power and VIBE the CLIFF, Rictor.
RUMBBLE
KRAK • KRAKK
KRAK
Awesome! Stand old SUNSPOT on his head and he becomes a Brain Surgeon! Maybe we'll KEEP you this way, Bobby.
Shhhh!
WHAT IS IT, SHRANNK? I BADE THEE GUARD..
YEIIIII!
CLUMSY OAF TO STUMBLE SO NEAR THE EDGE. HOW LITTLE DIDST THOU DESERVE MY FAITH IN THEE.
COME, LEGIONS OF HEL, ASGARD... AND THE ODINDEATH AWAIT US!
Of all the cold-blooded witches...!
Too bad you can't vibe HELA and her entire ARMY into the Abyss.
That wouldn't WORK! But something will. After all...
...the Sorcerer-Giant that Boom-Boom and Warlock and my Wolf-Prince met has got Hela worried.
You're Right. She's rushin things an gettin sloppy.
That's the real reason we're still alive.
But ah still don't see how it can help us stop her entire ARMY.

IN ASGARD'S ICY WASTES, ICE CREATURES GAMBOL, AS THE NEW MUTANTS, BOOM-BOOM, WARLOCK, AND THEIR ALLY, THE WOLF-PRINCE, HRIMHARI, STARE INTO AN ANCIENT CRYSTAL...
SELF SEES HELA WITH SELFRIENDTEAMMATE DANI, BUT WHAT IS SWORD?
THAT IS THE DECEPTIVELY DEADLY WEAPON THAT HELA HAST CREATED, A WEAPON WHICH, IN TIME, COULD THREATEN TO FELL THE WORLD TREE ITSELF.
LOOK, TIWAZ, YOU'RE A MIGHTY SORCERER AND ALL THAT STUFF. CAN'T YOU JUST WAVE YOUR HAND AND... DESTROY HER?
HELA IS DEATH HERSELF, BOOM-BOOM. AND NOT EVEN I HAVE THE POWER TO VANQUISH DEATH ENTIRELY.
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
IT IS THE FATES WHO WEAVE THE WARP AND WOOF OF OUR LIVES...
...BUT SOMETIMES, THE STRONG MAY TAKE THE STRINGS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS...
...AND TWIST THE FUTURE TO THEIR WILL. THAT IS WHAT HELA NOW ATTEMPTS.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA ATTEMPT, TOO!
BUT, BOOM-BOOM, HELA IS FAR TOO STRONG FOR SELFRIENDS TO STOP ALONE.
ODIN IS IN HIS ODINSLEEP, AND THOR IS TRAPPED ON MIDGARD.*
NEXT STRONGEST AMONG THE ASGARDIANS IS BALDER... AND THE WARRIORS THREE.
IF ONLY WE COULD FIND HOGUN THE GRIM...
*EARTH.--BOB
HIS LOCATION, AT LEAST, CAN I SHOW THEE. BUT, BEHOLD--HE IS IN DIRE PERIL.
THE WARRIORS THREE ARE CAPTIVES--OF QUEEN ULA AND HER SAVAGE SWARM.
WHO?

THEY ARE TROLLS WHO LIVE A HIVE-LIKE EXISTENCE. HOGUN FACED THEM ON A PREVIOUS ADVENTURE. WE MUST RESCUE THEM!
TROLLS! OOBOY! FOR A WHILE THERE I WAS ALMOST BEGINNING TO LIKE ASGARD.
TIWAZ, SIR, CAN YOU GIVE SELF NAVIGATION COORDINATES?
BETTER STILL, I HAVE A MAP...!
AND SOON...
A STORM IS COMING UP, SELFRIENDS, WE MUST LEAVE SOON, IF WE ARE TO LEAVE AT ALL.
POP!
POP!
IN A MINUTE, WARLOCK...
LOOK TIWAZ, I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE SUCH A...YOU KNOW... GROUCH, EARLIER.
I KNOW YOU'D HELP US IF YOU COULD. AT LEAST YOU SAVED US FROM THE FROST GIANTS.
I GUESS WE CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO DO EVERYTHING. I MEAN... LIKE...SOMETIMES EVEN I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING RIGHT.
BUT I... WE WILL... THIS TIME. SO DON'T WORRY, OKAY? AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
TIWAZ REALLY WAS A NICE OLD GUY, WASN'T HE?
INDEED, SELFRIEND. BUT IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT HE WAS NOT A VERY POWERFUL SORCERER AFTER ALL.
A MORTAL, A WOLF-PRINCE AND A MECHANICAL MANTHING... ON THE SURFACE, A STRANGE COALITION...
...AND YET... THEY'RE ALL FRUIT OF THE WORLD TREE, AFTER ALL.

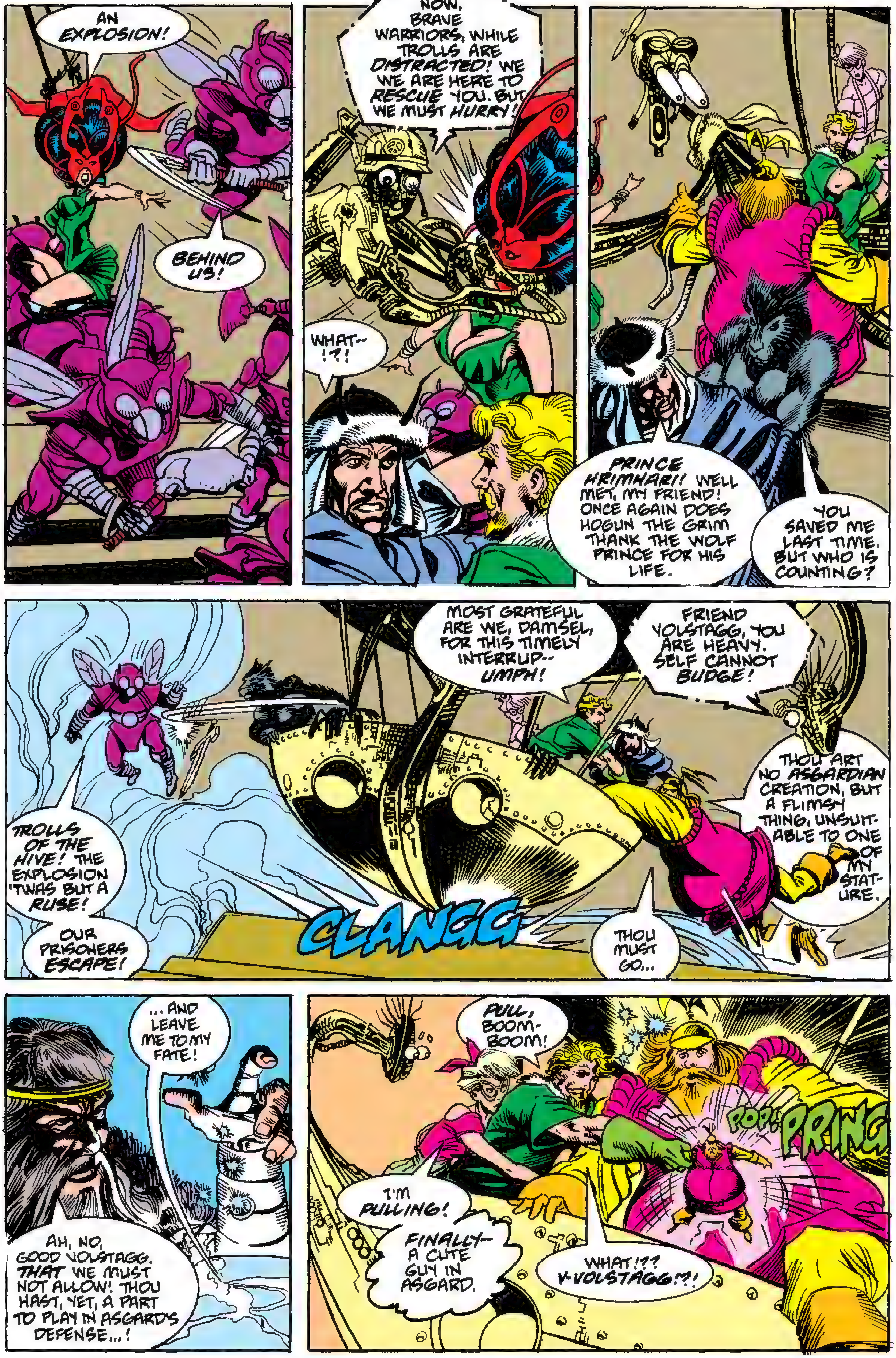

THE HILLS SURROUNDING ASGARD'S REGAL CAPITAL ARE RICH WITH MEADOWS, AND IT IS HERE THAT THE MAGICAL CHARIOT-GOATS OF THOR ODINSON GRAZE AS THEY WILL...
...AND SO, YOU SEE TOOTHGNASHER, HELA IS PLANNING TO INVADE ASGARD...
...AND THY MASTER IS AWAY ON MIDGARD, AND PAPA AND THE WARRIORS THREE ARE AWAY, TOO, THOUGH WE KNOW NOT WHERE...
...AND ODIN'S VIZIER WILL NOT BELIEVE US, ALTHOUGH WE'VE WARNED HIM OF THE DANGER.
BUT WE DO KNOW WHERE BALDER IS! HE VISITS THE SORCERESS KARNILLA IN HER KINGDOM IN NORNHEIM.
WE REALIZE THAT IT IS A GREAT IMPOSITION, BUT THOU CANST FLY RAPIDLY, AND WE WOULD NOT ASK WERE DANGER LESS IMMINENT... BUT...
BEHOLD, HILDY! THEY KNEEL! THEY UNDERSTAND.
THEY WANT US TO CLIMB ON THEIR BACKS!
WE THANK THEE MOST GRACIOUSLY FLEET TOOTH-GRINDER.
HOLD ON TIGHTLY, KEVIN.
I'M NOT PULLING YOUR FUR, AM I?
NEVER BEFORE HAVE CHILDREN ANYWHERE EXPERIENCED SUCH A RIDE. BUT FINALLY, IT IS OVER, AND, AS THE GOATS CIRCLE TOWARD KARNILLA'S CASTLE...
LOOK! PEASANTS WORKING IN THE FIELDS...BUT THEY'RE GRAY...THEY MUST BE VERY DIRTY...
...AND WHEN I WAVE TO THEM THEY DON'T WAVE BACK! THEY DON'T MOVE AT ALL!
THAT'S BECAUSE THE SORCERER-FROST GIANT, UTGARD-LOKI, ATTACKED THIS KINGDOM AND CHANGED ITS PEOPLE TO STONE*, KEV...
*SEE THE BALDER LIMITED SERIES.--BOB
...AND THOUGH BALDER DEFEATED HIM, UTGARD-LOKI WAS UNABLE TO UNDO THE DAMAGE--
LOOK! SOMEONE'S MOVING THERE!

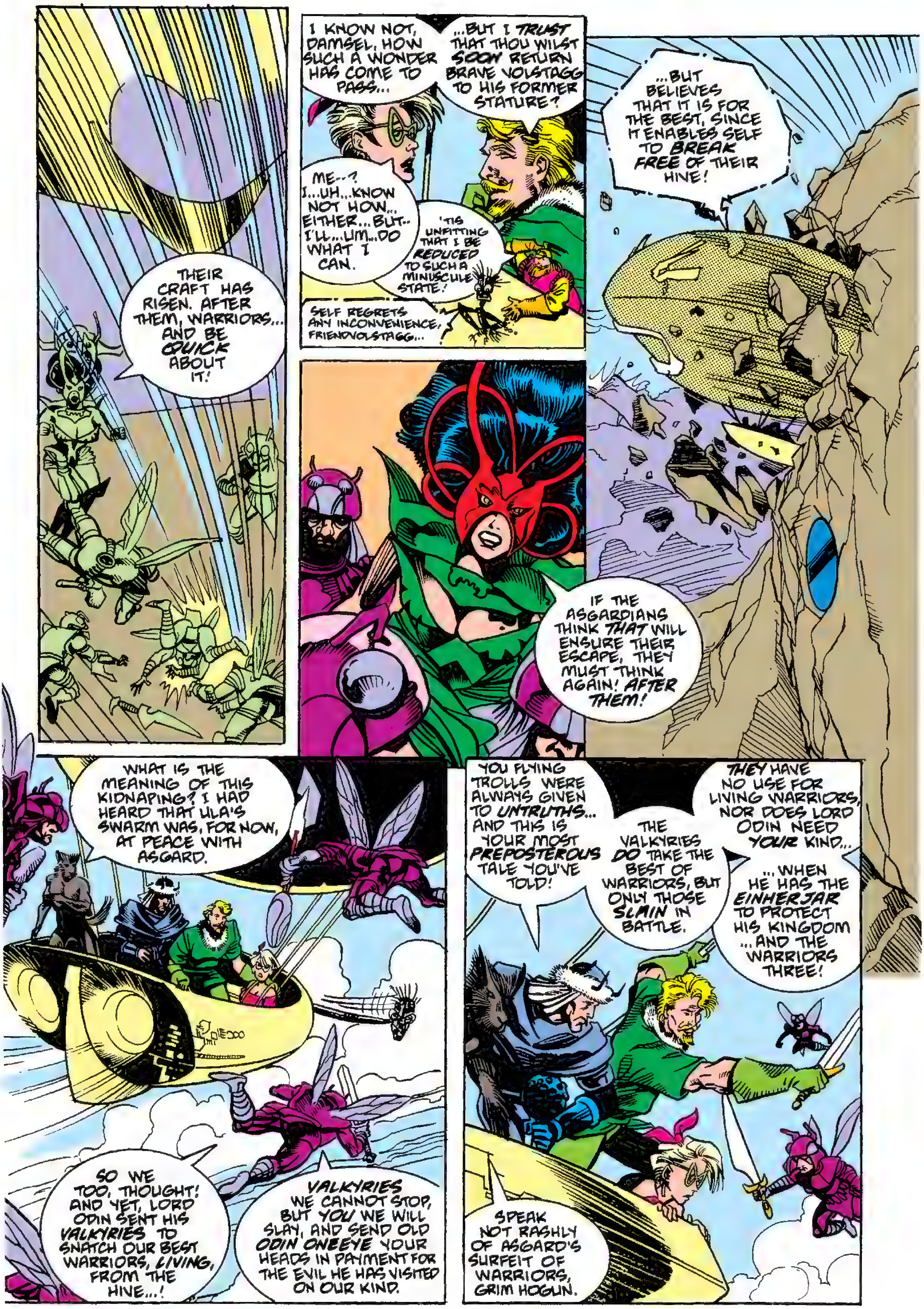
'TIS BALDER! AND KARNILLA IS WITH HIM!
BALDER! BALDER!
HILDY! WHAT ART THOU DOING HERE,...AND ON THOR'S GOATS...?
THE WOLF PRINCE HRIMHARI TOLD US THAT HELA HAS SUBORNED THE VALKYRIES AND IMPRISONED THE EINHERJAR!
SHE HAS ARMED HER LEGIONS OF THE DEAD--OW!--AND PLANS TO INVADE ASGARD...!
GRAVE NEWS. I MUST RETURN WITH YOU AT ONCE!
TO FIGHT AGAINST ALL OF HEL, WITH THE EINHERJAR AND VALKYRIES HELPLESS SLAVES OF HELA?
SURELY T'WILL END IN THY DEFEAT, MY LOVE, AND DEATH.
IF ONLY I COULD SEND MY PEOPLE ARMED TO AID THEE...FOR SURELY, HELA THREATENS ALL OF US.
I HAD HELD SUCH HOPES FOR MY LAST EFFORT TO RESTORE THEM. BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE, AND STONE THEY REMAIN!
I CANNOT IMAGINE WHERE MY SPELL WENT WRONG..
...UNLESS...


MEANWHILE, IN A FEDERAL PRISON IN NEW YORK STATE, WHERE THE MUTANT, RUSTY COLLINS, IS BEING HELD...
THE FOOD STINKS! THE SERVICE IS LOUSY! THE SECOND I GET THE CHANCE I'M OUT OF HERE! I HAVE A PLAN--!
WE ALL GOT PLANS, VULTURE. ME, I PLAN TA WIN THE LOTTO AN' BE DONE WITH LISTENIN' TA BELLYACHIN' SCUM LIKE YOU!
PLAN! HA! YOU'RE A HAS-BEEN, VULTURE! YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' WITHOUT YOUR WINGS.
AND THEY SURE AIN'T GIVIN' 'EM BACK TA YOU..
BEEN READIN' THE PAPERS? EVEN REAL LAMEOID SUPER-DUDES ARE GETTIN' IN ON THE SUPER HERO BASH-UP*...
...BUT YOU AIN'T BEEN ASKED TA PLAY IN THEIR ALL-STAR GAME.
*OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ACTS OF VENGEANCE.
YOU'LL SEE. ALL OF YOU IMBECILES WILL SEE! I'LL SHOW YOU..
EH?
SO...THEY DON'T WANT ME INVOLVED IN THEIR LITTLE ESCAPADE, DO THEY?
THEN WHY SEND ME THIS LITTLE GIFT?
IT'S MY DESIGN... IT USES MY UNPATENTED MAGNETIC FLIGHT SYSTEM.
BUT THESE ARE NOT MY WINGS. SOMEONE HAS STOLEN MY DESIGN...HAS TAKEN LIBERTIES... BUT WHO--?
THE SET OF THE HINGES! THE COMPLEXITY OF THE FASTENINGS!
THIS IS THE TINKERER'S WORK... AS OBVIOUSLY AS IF HE HAD SIGNED IT!

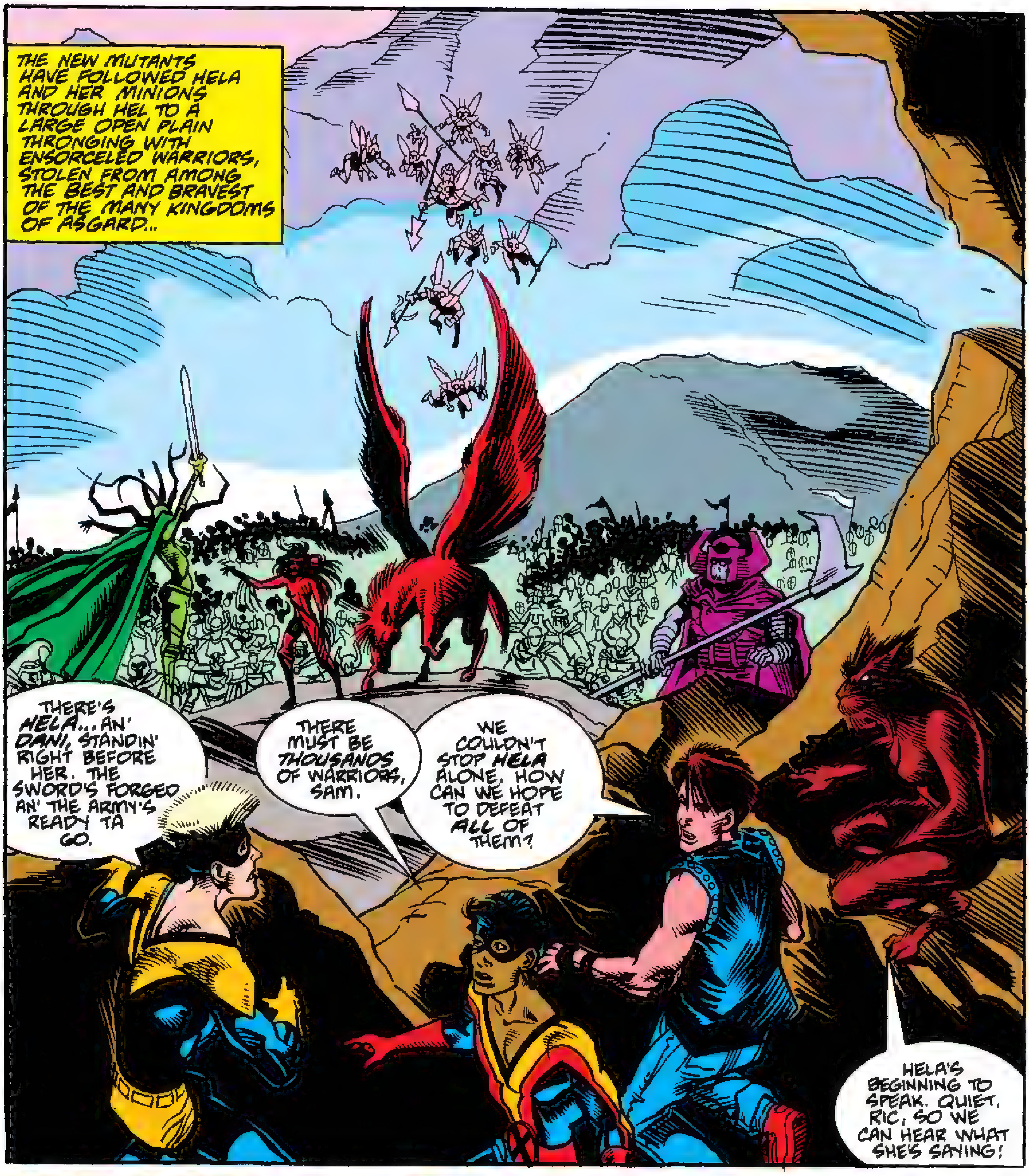
I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO STEAL MY DESIGNS.
I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT IT MEANS TO MOCK THE VULTURE.
I'LL SHOW YOU ALL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EVEN DRESSED LIKE THAT, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
OH, CAN'T I, YOU MUTANT FOOL! JUST WATCH ME!
MY BENEFACTOR ENCLOSED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE...
...FOR JUST SUCH A CONTINGENCY!
BOOM!
LET GO OF MY LEG, YOU IDIOT!
LET GO...!

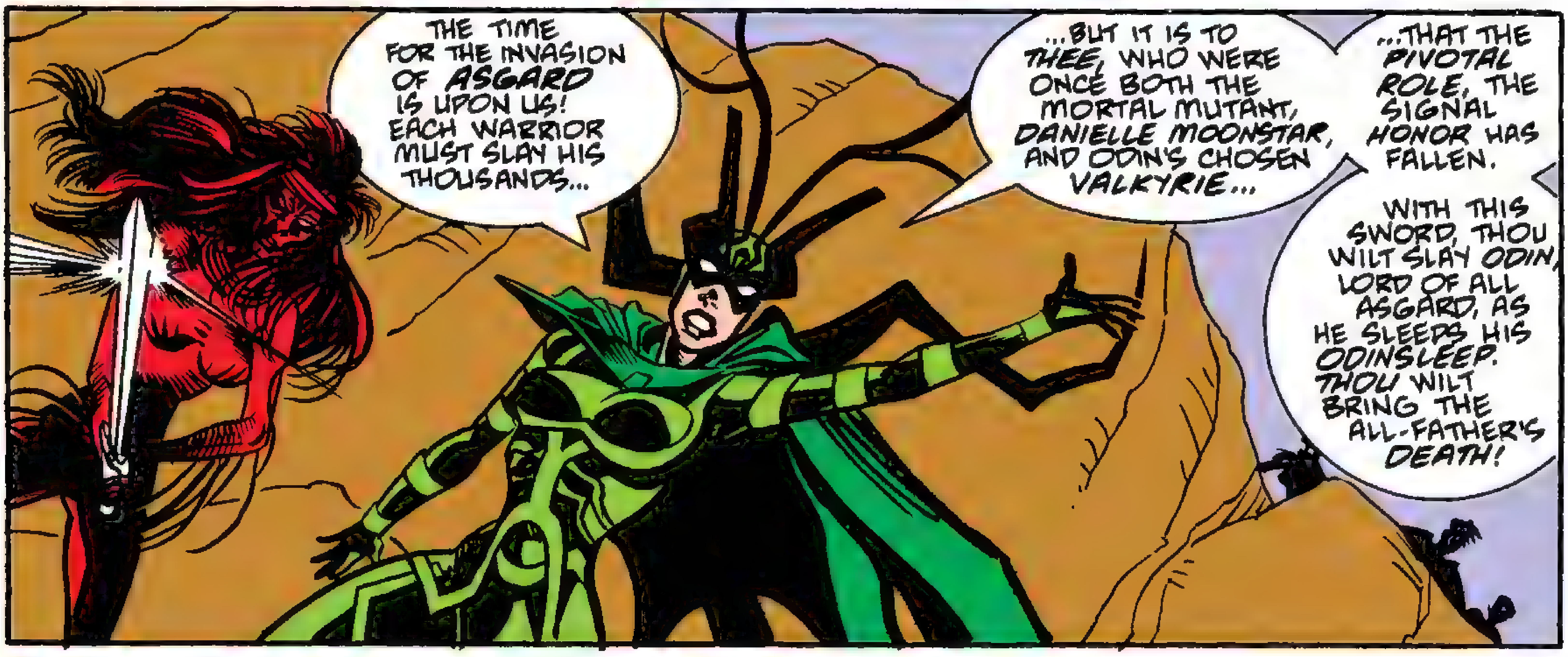
THROUGH RAIN AND STORM, WARLOCK HAS FLOWN AT TOP SPEED TOWARD QUEEN ULA'S HIVE, AND NOW...
WARLOCK! LOOK! THERE'S AN OPENING ON THE OTHER SIDE!
AND AN UNGODLY RACKET COMING FROM WITHIN... LIKE THE BUZZING OF AN ANGRY SWARM!
WARLOCK WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THEE TO HOVER, SO THAT WE MIGHT LOOK IN?
SELFRIENDS! THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM!
WHY SHOULD WE KEEP THEM ALIVE, MY QUEEN? ASGARD HAS EVER BEEN OUR ENEMY, AND THIS PERFIDY GOES BEYOND ALL REASON.
I SAY KILL THEM NOW!
DOESN'T IT SEEM A LITTLE WEIRD? I MEAN ... IF THESE WARRIORS THREE ARE SO GOOD, HOW COME WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM?
EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP SOMETIME, BOOM-BOOM. AND THEIR RESCUE WILL BE EASY. ALL WE MUST DO IS...
AND SOON...
SELF STILL DOES NOT LIKE THE LOOK OF THESE HIVE TROLLS...NOR THE ODDS.
WE DON'T HAVE TO DEFEAT THEM, WARLOCK. WE NEED BUT STEAL THE WARRIORS THREE AWAY.
THERE SPEAKS AN INCURABLE OPTIMIST! LOOK, I CREATED THIS TIME BOMB ON A DELAYED FUSE...
...YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO HURL IT OVER THEIR HEADS TO THE BACK OF THE HIVE--?
THOU WILT SEE. AND NOW, AS THY MIDGARDIAN WARRIORS SAY...LET US ROCK AND ROLL.
...4...3 ...2...1...
BOOM


AN EXPLOSION!
BEHIND US!
NOW, BRAVE WARRIORS, WHILE TROLLS ARE DISTRACTED! WE WE ARE HERE TO RESCUE YOU. BUT WE MUST HURRY!
WHAT-- !?!
PRINCE HRIMHARI! WELL MET, MY FRIEND! ONCE AGAIN DOES HOGUN THE GRIM THANK THE WOLF PRINCE FOR HIS LIFE.
YOU SAVED ME LAST TIME. BUT WHO IS COUNTING?
TROLLS OF THE HIVE! THE EXPLOSION 'TWAS BUT A RUSE!
OUR PRISONERS ESCAPE!
MOST GRATEFUL ARE WE, DAMSEL, FOR THIS TIMELY INTERRUP-- UMPH!
FRIEND VOLSTAGG, YOU ARE HEAVY. SELF CANNOT BUDGE!
CLANGG
THOU ART NO ASGARDIAN CREATION, BUT A FLIMSY THING, UNSUITABLE TO ONE OF MY STATURE.
THOU MUST GO...
...AND LEAVE ME TO MY FATE!
AH, NO, GOOD VOLSTAGG. THAT WE MUST NOT ALLOW! THOU HAST, YET, A PART TO PLAY IN ASGARD'S DEFENSE...!
PULL, BOOM-BOOM!
I'M PULLING!
FINALLY-- A CUTE GUY IN ASGARD.
POP! PRING
WHAT!?? V-VOLSTAGG!?!

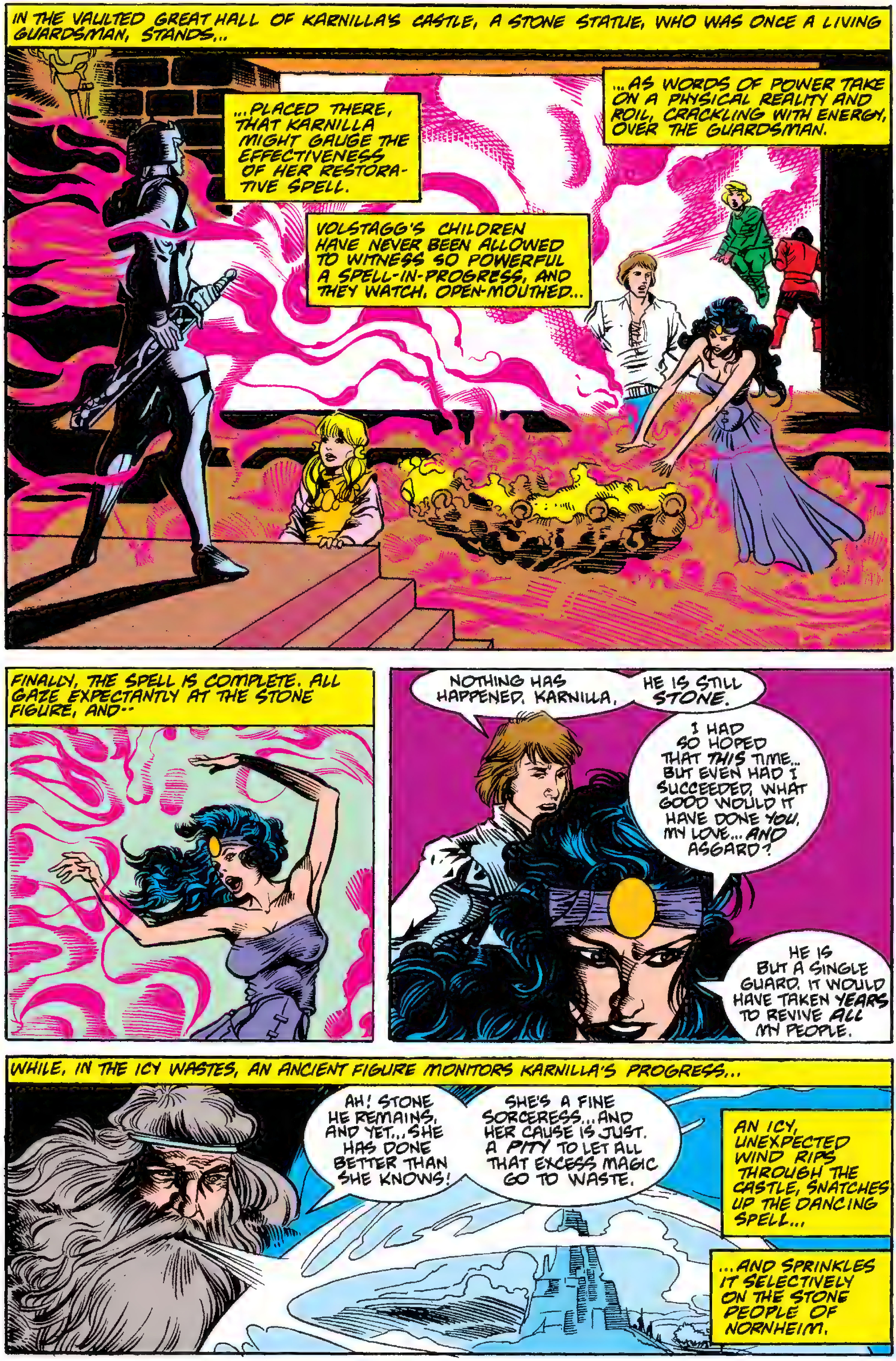

THEIR CRAFT HAS RISEN. AFTER THEM, WARRIORS... AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!
I KNOW NOT, DAMSEL, HOW SUCH A WONDER HAS COME TO PASS...
...BUT I TRUST THAT THOU WILST SOON RETURN BRAVE VOLSTAGG TO HIS FORMER STATURE?
ME--? I...UH...KNOW NOT HOW... EITHER... BUT.. I'LL...UM...DO WHAT I CAN.
'TIS UNFITTING THAT I BE REDUCED TO SUCH A MINUSCULE STATE!
SELF REGRETS ANY INCONVENIENCE, FRIEND VOLSTAGG...
...BUT BELIEVES THAT IT IS FOR THE BEST, SINCE IT ENABLES SELF TO BREAK FREE OF THEIR HIVE!
IF THE ASGARDIANS THINK THAT WILL ENSURE THEIR ESCAPE, THEY MUST THINK AGAIN! AFTER THEM!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS KIDNAPING? I HAD HEARD THAT ULA'S SWARM WAS, FOR NOW, AT PEACE WITH ASGARD.
SO WE TOO, THOUGHT! AND YET, LORD ODIN SENT HIS VALKYRIES TO SNATCH OUR BEST WARRIORS, LIVING, FROM THE HIVE...!
VALKYRIES WE CANNOT STOP, BUT YOU WE WILL SLAY, AND SEND OLD ODIN ONEEYE YOUR HEADS IN PAYMENT FOR THE EVIL HE HAS VISITED ON OUR KIND.
YOU FLYING TROLLS WERE ALWAYS GIVEN TO UNTRUTHS... AND THIS IS YOUR MOST PREPOSTEROUS TALE YOU'VE TOLD!
THE VALKYRIES DO TAKE THE BEST OF WARRIORS, BUT ONLY THOSE SLAIN IN BATTLE.
THEY HAVE NO USE FOR LIVING WARRIORS, NOR DOES LORD ODIN NEED YOUR KIND...
...WHEN HE HAS THE EINHERJAR TO PROTECT HIS KINGDOM ...AND THE WARRIORS THREE!
SPEAK NOT RASHLY OF ASGARD'S SURFEIT OF WARRIORS, GRIM HOGUN.

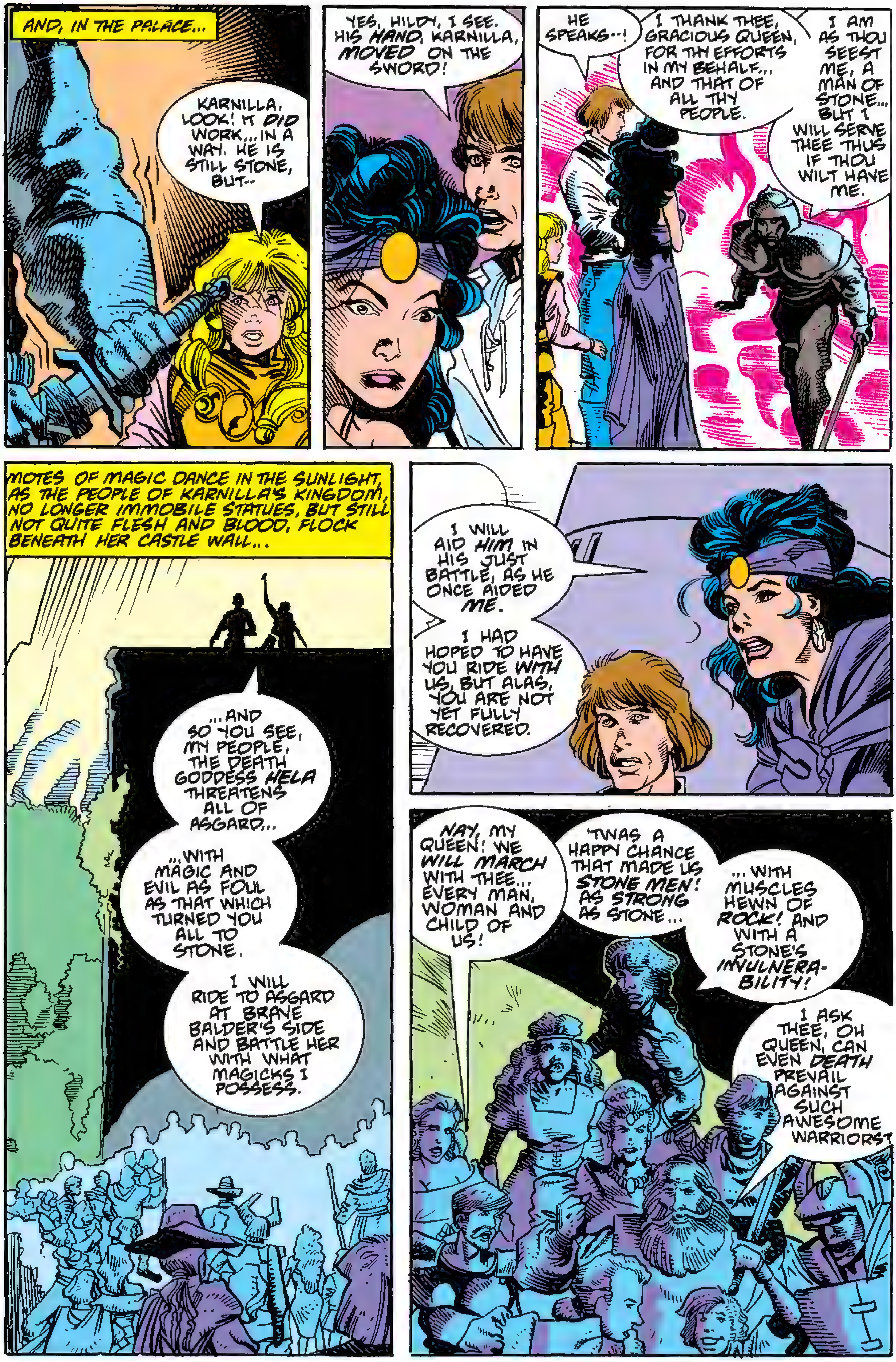
YEAH! BAD NEWS, GUYS... 3... THESE HIVE GUYS ARE TELLING THE TRUTH... AS THEY SEE IT, ANYWAY...
...2... HELA HAS TAKEN THE VALKYRIES OVER BY MAGIC WHILE ODIN'S IN HIS ODINSLEEP...
...1... AND THE VALKYRIES ARE TAKING THE LIVING NOW... NOT FOR ODIN... BUT INTO HELA'S ARMY.
SHE PLANS TO MAGIC THEM AND USE THEM TO INVADE AND CONQUER ALL OF ASGARD.
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT THY WORD, CHILD OF MIDGARD, FOR THIS NONSENSE?
THEN BELIEVE ME, OH SWARM.
I, HRIMHARI, PRINCE OF THE WOLVES, STAKE MY HONOR ON HER VERACITY! WHAT BOOM-BOOM SAYS IS TRUE!
I KNOW, FOR HELA HAS STOLEN MY PEOPLE, AS SHE HAS YOURS. SHE IS YOUR ENEMY.
CAN IT BE TRUE?
IS IT REALLY HE...?
MORTALS ARE TO BE TRUSTED NO MORE THAN ASGARDIANS, MAJESTY, BUT THE HONOR OF THE WOLF PRINCE IS UNQUESTIONABLE...
...AND HE SERVES ASGARD NO MORE THAN WE.
IF HELA IS THE KIDNAPER, THEN OUR QUARREL WITH ASGARD IS AT AN END.
HELA THREATENS ALL OUR KINGDOMS, PRINCE HRIMHARI. FOR NOW, WE WILL ALLY OURSELVES WITH YOU... AND ASGARD...
...THOUGH IT IS DEATH HERSELF WE MUST FACE.

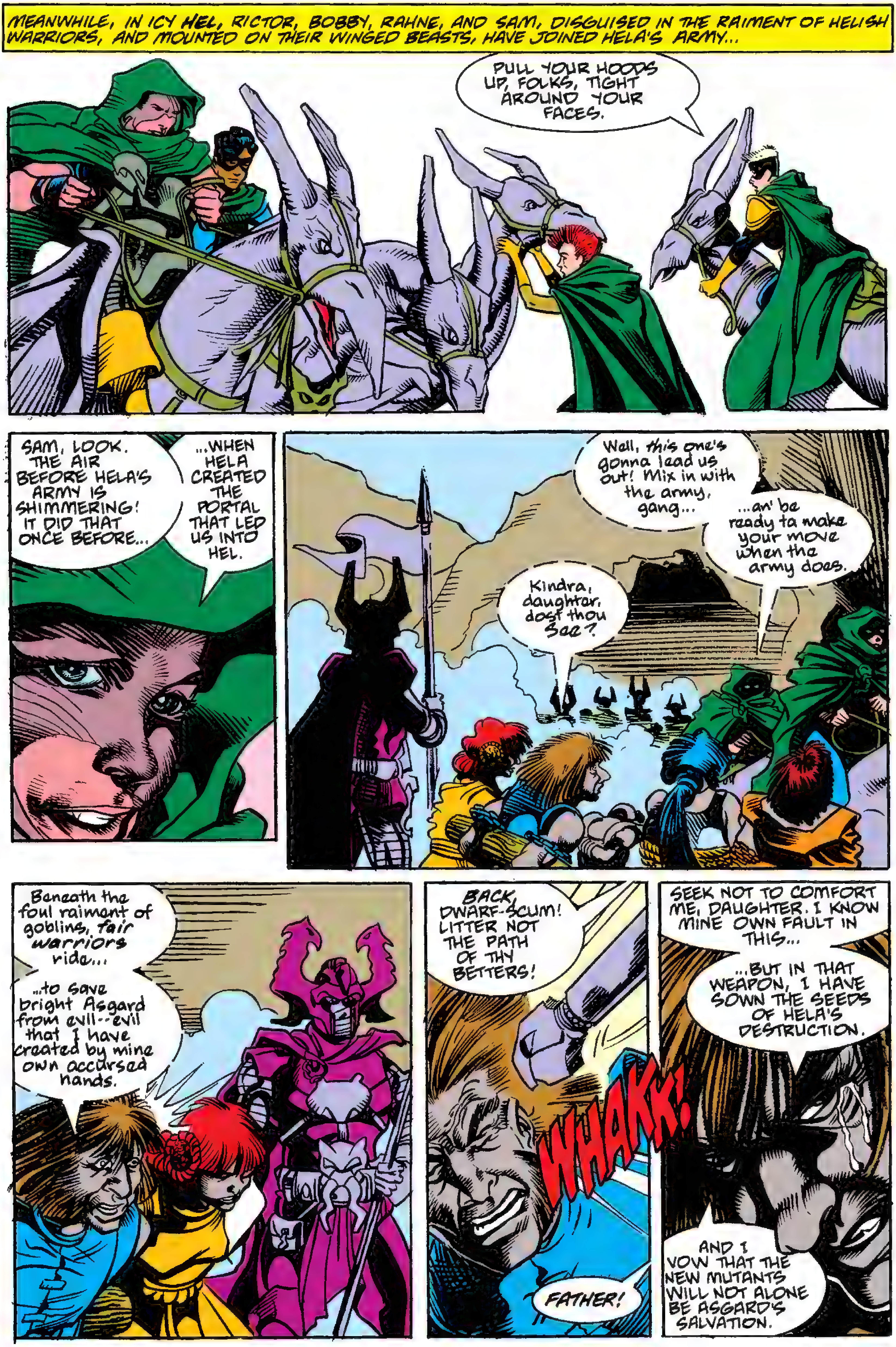

THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE FOLLOWED HELA AND HER MINIONS THROUGH HEL TO A LARGE OPEN PLAIN THRONGING WITH ENSORCELED WARRIORS, STOLEN FROM AMONG THE BEST AND BRAVEST OF THE MANY KINGDOMS OF ASGARD...
THERE'S HELA... AN' DANI, STANDIN' RIGHT BEFORE HER. THE SWORD'S FORGED AN' THE ARMY'S READY TA GO.
THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF WARRIORS, SAM.
WE COULDN'T STOP HELA ALONE. HOW CAN WE HOPE TO DEFEAT ALL OF THEM?
HELA'S BEGINNING TO SPEAK. QUIET, RIC, SO WE CAN HEAR WHAT SHE'S SAYING!


THE TIME FOR THE INVASION OF ASGARD IS UPON US! EACH WARRIOR MUST SLAY HIS THOUSANDS...
...BUT IT IS TO THEE, WHO WERE ONCE BOTH THE MORTAL MUTANT, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, AND ODIN'S CHOSEN VALKYRIE...
...THAT THE PIVOTAL ROLE, THE SIGNAL HONOR HAS FALLEN.
WITH THIS SWORD, THOU WILT SLAY ODIN, LORD OF ALL ASGARD, AS HE SLEEPS HIS ODINSLEEP. THOU WILT BRING THE ALL-FATHER'S DEATH!

WAIT! MAYBE WE WON'T HAVE TA STOP THEM ALL! IT'S DANI WHO'S THE LINCHPIN OF HELA'S PLAN...
...SO IT'S DANI WE GOTTA STOP.
YOU'RE RIGHT! IF BOOM-BOOM, WARLOCK AND THE WOLF PRINCE HAVE MANAGED TO WARN ASGARD, AN ENTIRE ARMY WILL BE WAITING TO STOP THESE WARRIORS...
BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE ASGARDIANS TO STRENGTHEN ODIN'S GUARDS, SINCE THEY'LL EXPECT HIS MAGIC TO PROTECT HIM.
ALL DANI WILL HAVE TO DO IS DUCK OUT OF THE BATTLE AND HEAD FOR ODIN.
ONCE SHE KILLS HIM, THE VICTORY WILL BE HELA'S, NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE.
SO WE'LL LET THE ASGARDIANS DEAL WITH HELA'S ARMY, WHILE WE CONCENTRATE ON STOPPING DANI!
IF WE CAN!
CHINK CHINK
SHHH! IN THE VALLEY RIGHT BELOW! CLOAKED WARRIORS ON WINGED BEASTS!
TAKE 'EM OUT, GUYS! QUICK! 'FORE THEY GET IN SIGHT OF THE MAIN ARMY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS-MAN! BUT FOUR DOWN DOESN'T ALTER THE ODDS ALL THAT MUCH.
KIKK
GRRRR
RUMBLE
WAKT!
SILLY GOOSE, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? SAM WANTS US TO RIDE THESE WINGED BEASTS INTO ASGARD--DISGUISED AS PART OF HELA'S ARMY!

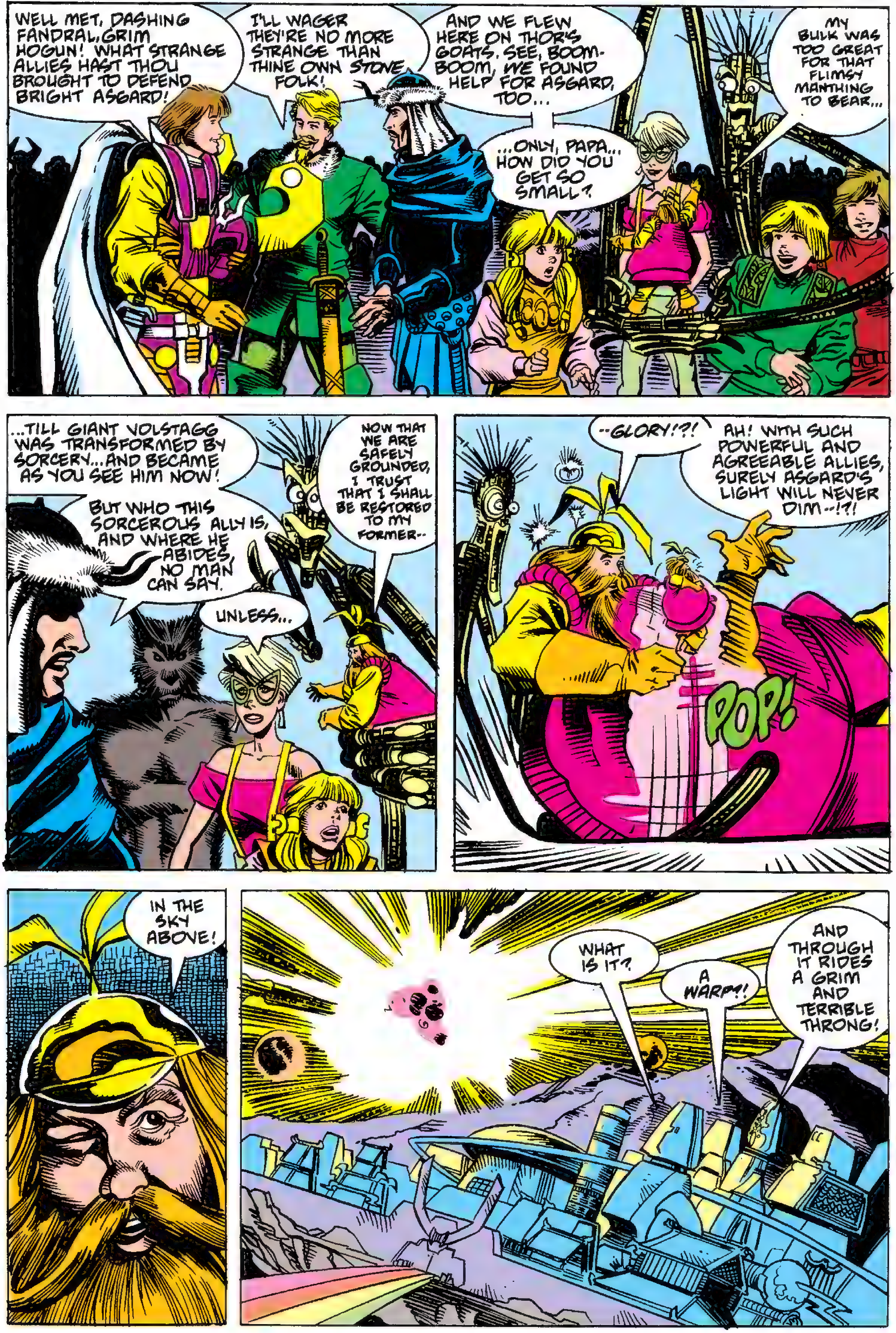

IN THE VAULTED GREAT HALL OF KARNILLA'S CASTLE, A STONE STATUE, WHO WAS ONCE A LIVING GUARDSMAN, STANDS...
...PLACED THERE, THAT KARNILLA MIGHT GAUGE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HER RESTORATIVE SPELL.
...AS WORDS OF POWER TAKE ON A PHYSICAL REALITY AND ROIL, CRACKLING WITH ENERGY, OVER THE GUARDSMAN.
VOLSTAGG'S CHILDREN HAVE NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO WITNESS SO POWERFUL A SPELL-IN-PROGRESS, AND THEY WATCH, OPEN-MOUTHED...
FINALLY, THE SPELL IS COMPLETE. ALL GAZE EXPECTANTLY AT THE STONE FIGURE, AND--
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED, KARNILLA.
HE IS STILL STONE.
I HAD SO HOPED THAT THIS TIME... BUT EVEN HAD I SUCCEEDED, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT HAVE DONE YOU, MY LOVE... AND ASGARD?
HE IS BUT A SINGLE GUARD. IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN YEARS TO REVIVE ALL MY PEOPLE.
WHILE, IN THE ICY WASTES, AN ANCIENT FIGURE MONITORS KARNILLA'S PROGRESS...
AH! STONE HE REMAINS. AND YET... SHE HAS DONE BETTER THAN SHE KNOWS!
SHE'S A FINE SORCERESS... AND HER CAUSE IS JUST. A PITY TO LET ALL THAT EXCESS MAGIC GO TO WASTE.
AN ICY, UNEXPECTED WIND RIPS THROUGH THE CASTLE, SNATCHES UP THE DANCING SPELL...
...AND SPRINKLES IT SELECTIVELY ON THE STONE PEOPLE OF NORNHEIM.

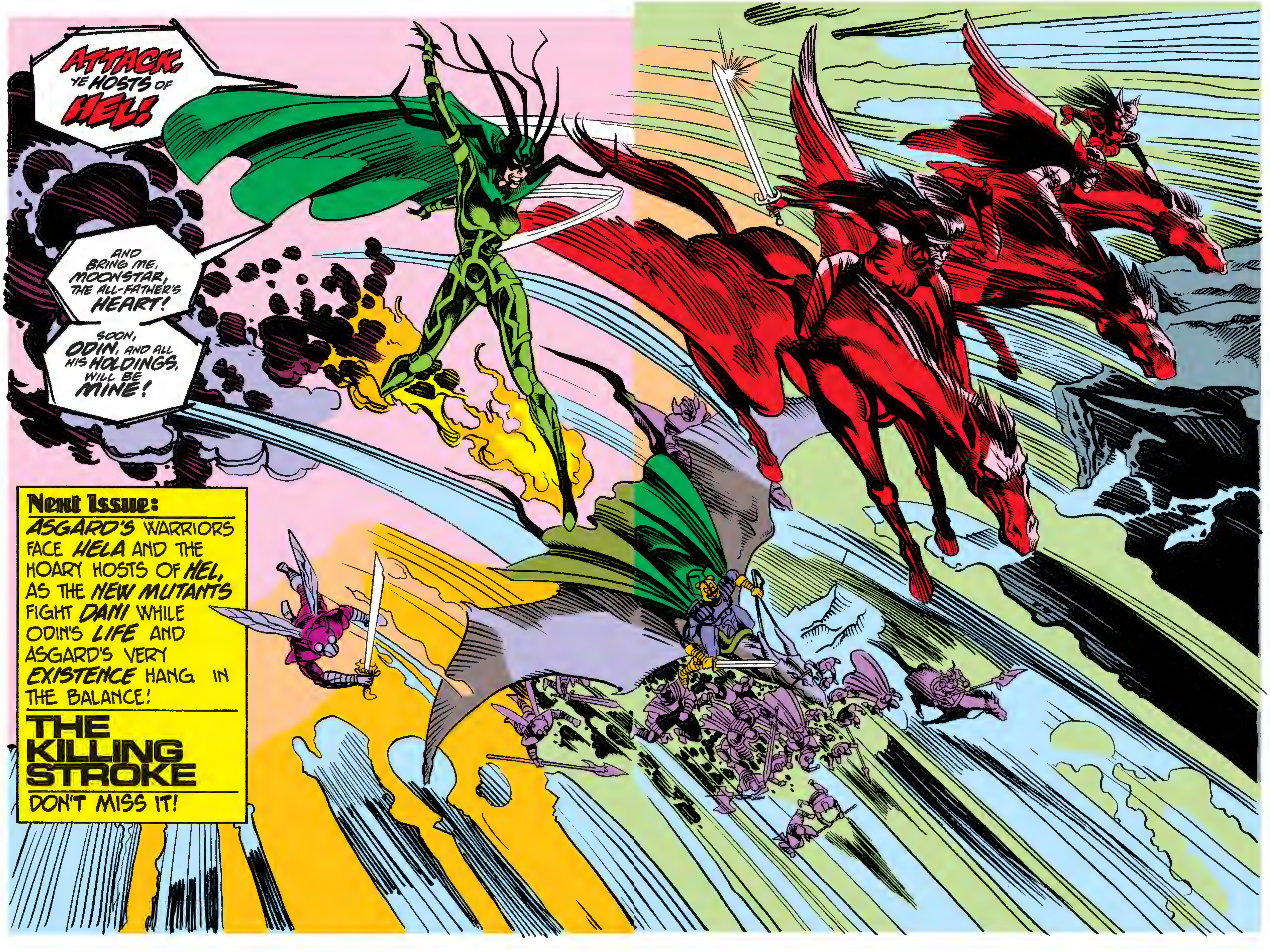

AND, IN THE PALACE...
KARNILLA, LOOK! IT DID WORK... IN A WAY. HE IS STILL STONE, BUT--
YES, HILDY, I SEE. HIS HAND, KARNILLA, MOVED ON THE SWORD!
HE SPEAKS--!
I THANK THEE, GRACIOUS QUEEN, FOR THY EFFORTS IN MY BEHALF... AND THAT OF ALL THY PEOPLE.
I AM AS THOU SEEST ME, A MAN OF STONE... BUT I WILL SERVE THEE THUS IF THOU WILT HAVE ME.
MOTES OF MAGIC DANCE IN THE SUNLIGHT, AS THE PEOPLE OF KARNILLA'S KINGDOM, NO LONGER IMMOBILE STATUES, BUT STILL NOT QUITE FLESH AND BLOOD, FLOCK BENEATH HER CASTLE WALL...
...AND SO YOU SEE, MY PEOPLE, THE DEATH GODDESS HELA THREATENS ALL OF ASGARD...
...WITH MAGIC AND EVIL AS FOUL AS THAT WHICH TURNED YOU ALL TO STONE.
I WILL RIDE TO ASGARD AT BRAVE BALDER'S SIDE AND BATTLE HER WITH WHAT MAGICKS I POSSESS.
I WILL AID HIM IN HIS JUST BATTLE, AS HE ONCE AIDED ME.
I HAD HOPED TO HAVE YOU RIDE WITH US, BUT ALAS, YOU ARE NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED.
NAY, MY QUEEN! WE WILL MARCH WITH THEE... EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD OF US!
'TWAS A HAPPY CHANCE THAT MADE US STONE MEN! AS STRONG AS STONE...
...WITH MUSCLES HEWN OF ROCK! AND WITH A STONE'S INVULNERABILITY!
I ASK THEE, OH QUEEN, CAN EVEN DEATH PREVAIL AGAINST SUCH AWESOME WARRIORS?


MEANWHILE, IN ICY HEL, RICTOR, BOBBY, RAHNE, AND SAM, DISGUISED IN THE RAIMENT OF HELISH WARRIORS, AND MOUNTED ON THEIR WINGED BEASTS, HAVE JOINED HELA'S ARMY...
PULL YOUR HOODS UP, FOLKS, TIGHT AROUND YOUR FACES.
SAM, LOOK. THE AIR BEFORE HELA'S ARMY IS SHIMMERING! IT DID THAT ONCE BEFORE...
...WHEN HELA CREATED THE PORTAL THAT LED US INTO HEL.
Well, this one's gonna lead us out! Mix in with the army, gang...
...an' be ready ta make your move when the army does.
Kindra, daughter, dost thou see?
Beneath the foul raiment of goblins, fair warriors ride...
..to save bright Asgard from evil--evil that I have created by mine own accursed hands.
BACK, DWARF-SCUM! LITTER NOT THE PATH OF THY BETTERS!
WHAKK!
FATHER!
SEEK NOT TO COMFORT ME, DAUGHTER. I KNOW MINE OWN FAULT IN THIS...
...BUT IN THAT WEAPON, I HAVE SOWN THE SEEDS OF HELA'S DESTRUCTION.
AND I VOW THAT THE NEW MUTANTS WILL NOT ALONE BE ASGARD'S SALVATION.

A MERE WARP AWAY, THE SPIRES OF ASGARD'S CAPITAL GLEAM IN THE SUNLIGHT AS BALDER AND KARNILLA'S ARMY OF STONE APPROACHES THE CITY'S GATES...
BALDER! LOOK! BEYOND US IN THE SKY.
FLYING MONSTERS! IT MUST BE HELA'S FORCES...!
FOR ASGARD!
RAISE YOUR WEAPONS, MEN, AND PREPARE TO MEET THIS ATTACK!
FOR NORNHEIM!
BEHOLD! AN ARMY MASSED BEFORE BRIGHT ASGARD'S GATES!
AND WARRIORS MADE OF STONE! SURELY THEY ARE HELA'S MOST TERRIBLE CREATION!
HOLD! THAT PROUD FIGURE LEADING THE MEN OF STONE... IS IT?
IT IS!
BALDER!
HALT, HNE WARRIORS! THESE ARE NOT ENEMIES--BUT ALLIES IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST DARK HEL!
'TIS THE WARRIORS THREE, AND THEY HAVE BROUGHT AN ARMY TO HELP DEFEND US!
SURELY, WITH ALLIES LIKE THIS, ASGARD CAN NEVER FALL!

SOON, WHEN INTRODUCTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THE HEROISM AND FORESIGHT OF VOLSTAGG'S CHILDREN MUCH ADMIRED, THE TIME COMES TO MARVEL AT THE STRANGENESS OF ASGARD'S ALLIES.


WELL MET, DASHING FANDRAL, GRIM HOGUN! WHAT STRANGE ALLIES HAST THOU BROUGHT TO DEFEND BRIGHT ASGARD!
I'LL WAGER THEY'RE NO MORE STRANGE THAN THINE OWN STONE FOLK!
AND WE FLEW HERE ON THOR'S GOATS. SEE, BOOM-BOOM, WE FOUND HELP FOR ASGARD, TOO...
...ONLY, PAPA... HOW DID YOU GET SO SMALL?
MY BULK WAS TOO GREAT FOR THAT FLIMSY MANTHING TO BEAR...
...TILL GIANT VOLSTAGG WAS TRANSFORMED BY SORCERY...AND BECAME AS YOU SEE HIM NOW!
NOW THAT WE ARE SAFELY GROUNDED, I TRUST THAT I SHALL BE RESTORED TO MY FORMER--
BUT WHO THIS SORCEROUS ALLY IS, AND WHERE HE ABIDES, NO MAN CAN SAY.
UNLESS...
--GLORY!?!
AH! WITH SUCH POWERFUL AND AGREEABLE ALLIES, SURELY ASGARD'S LIGHT WILL NEVER DIM--!?!
POP!
IN THE SKY ABOVE!
WHAT IS IT?
A WARP?!
AND THROUGH IT RIDES A GRIM AND TERRIBLE THRONG!


ATTACK, YE HOSTS OF HEL!
AND BRING ME, MOONSTAR, THE ALL-FATHER'S HEART!
SOON, ODIN, AND ALL HIS HOLDINGS, WILL BE MINE!

Next Issue:

ASGARD'S WARRIORS FACE *HELA* AND THE HOARY HOSTS OF *HEL*, AS THE *NEW MUTANTS* FIGHT *DANI* WHILE ODIN'S *LIFE* AND ASGARD'S VERY *EXISTENCE* HANG IN THE BALANCE!

THE KILLING STROKE

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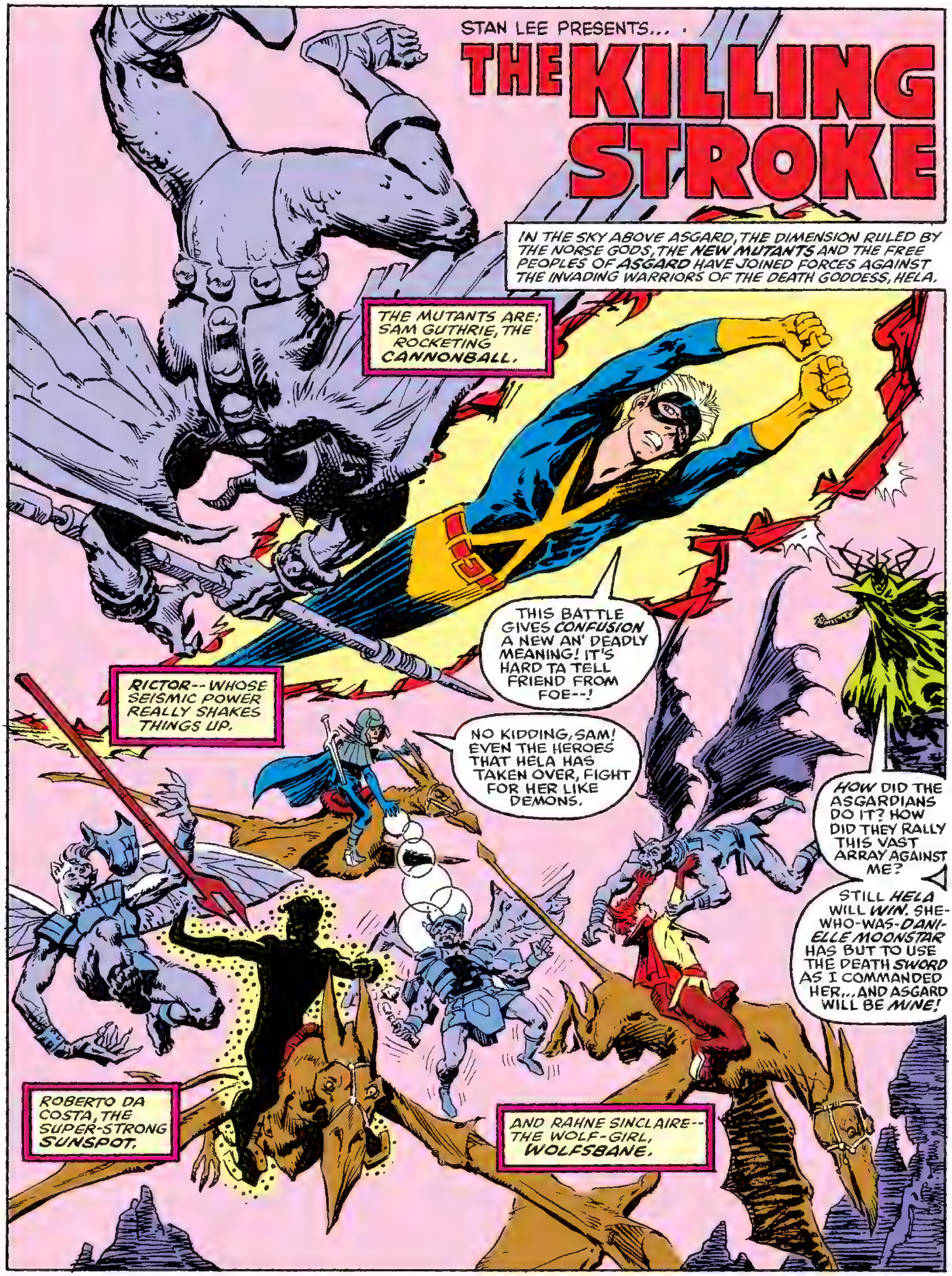
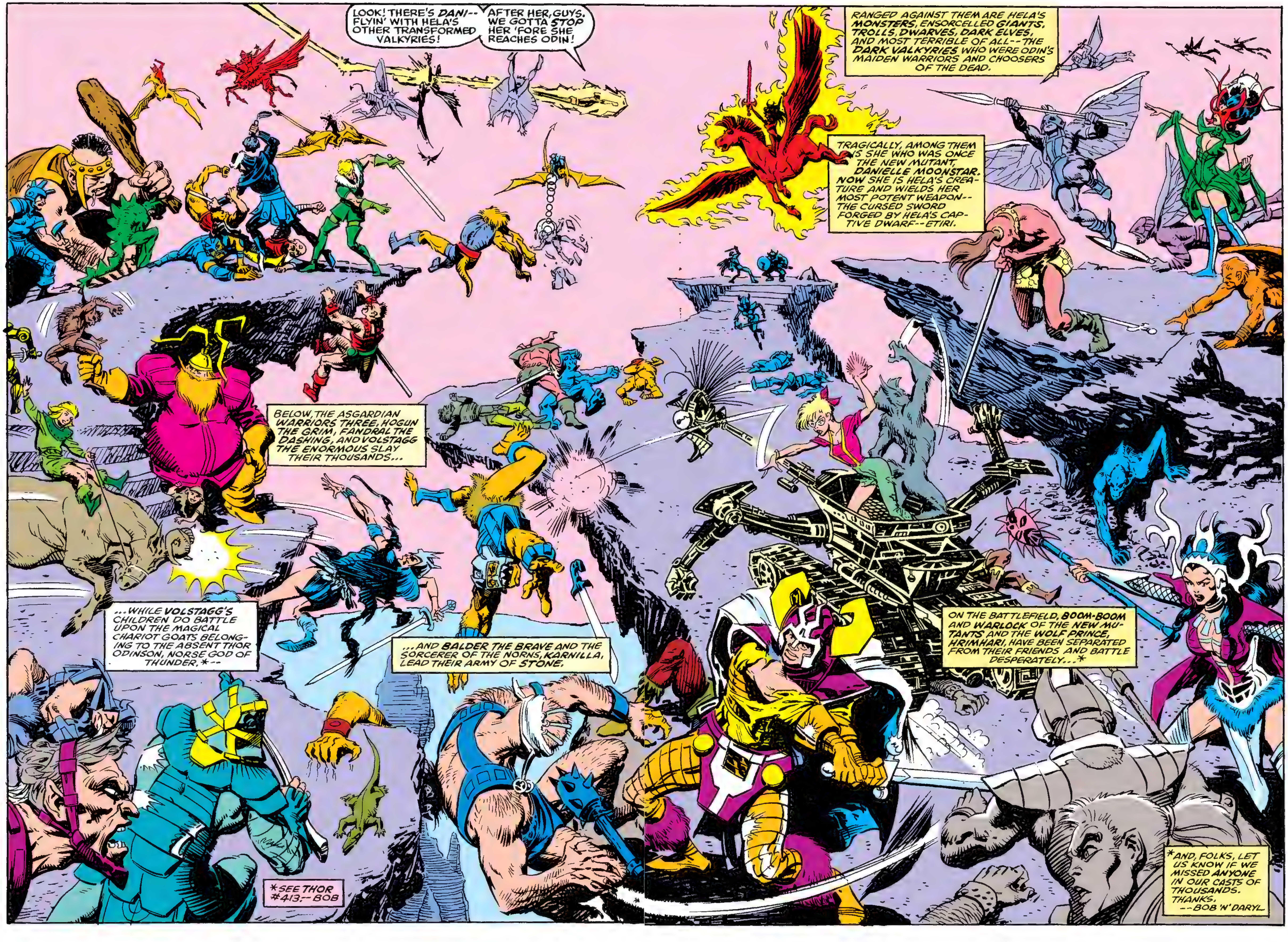
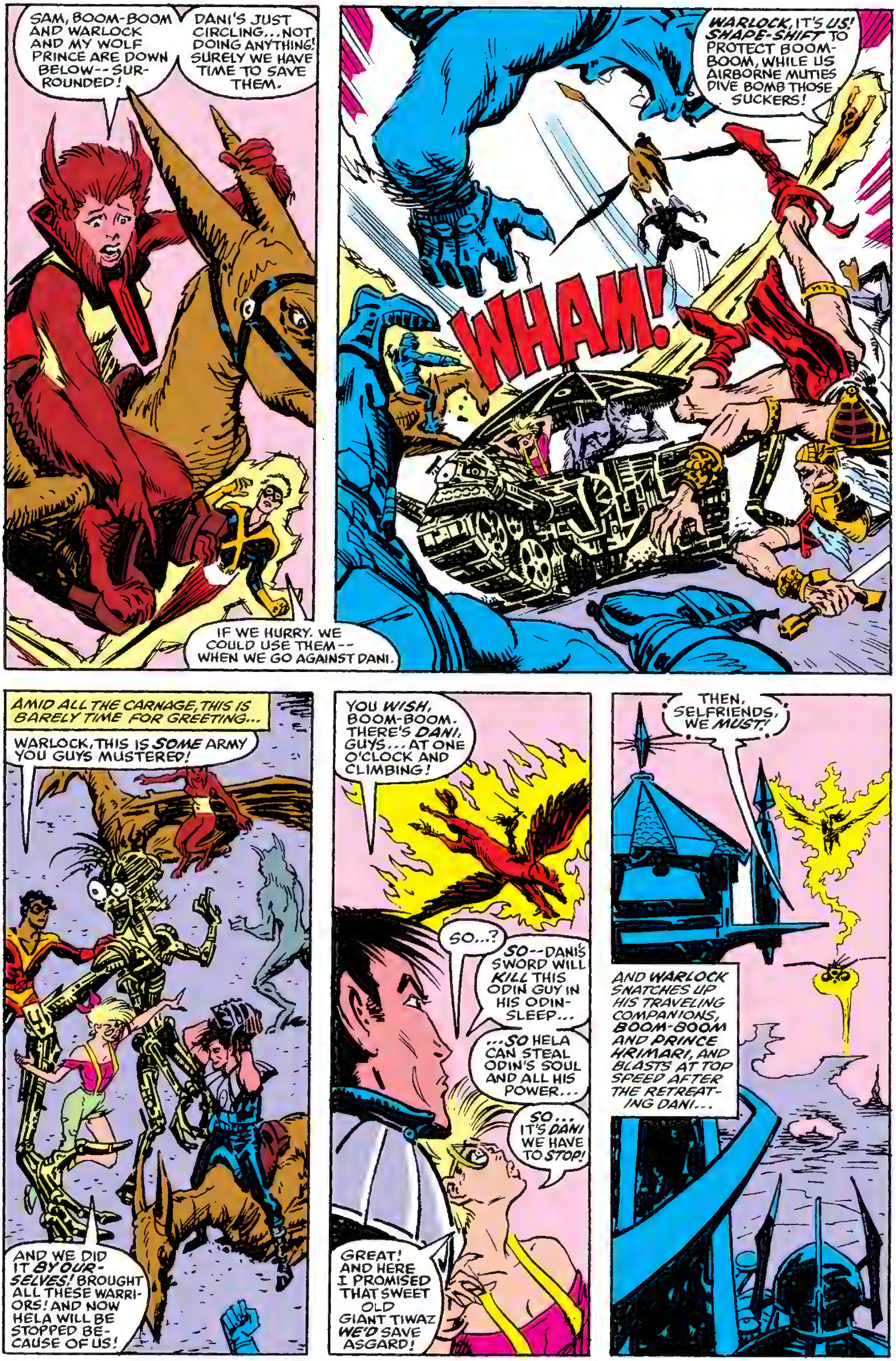
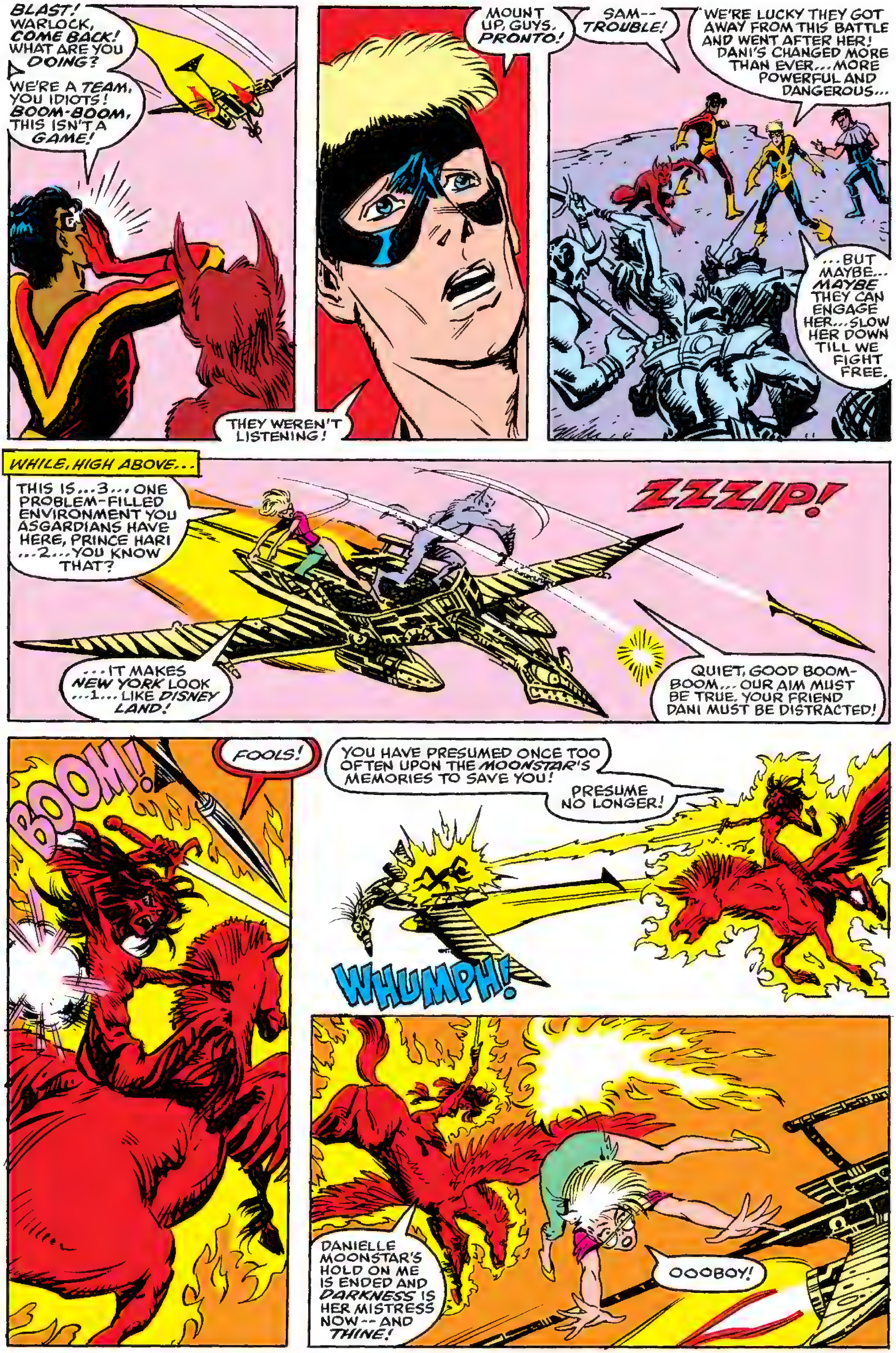
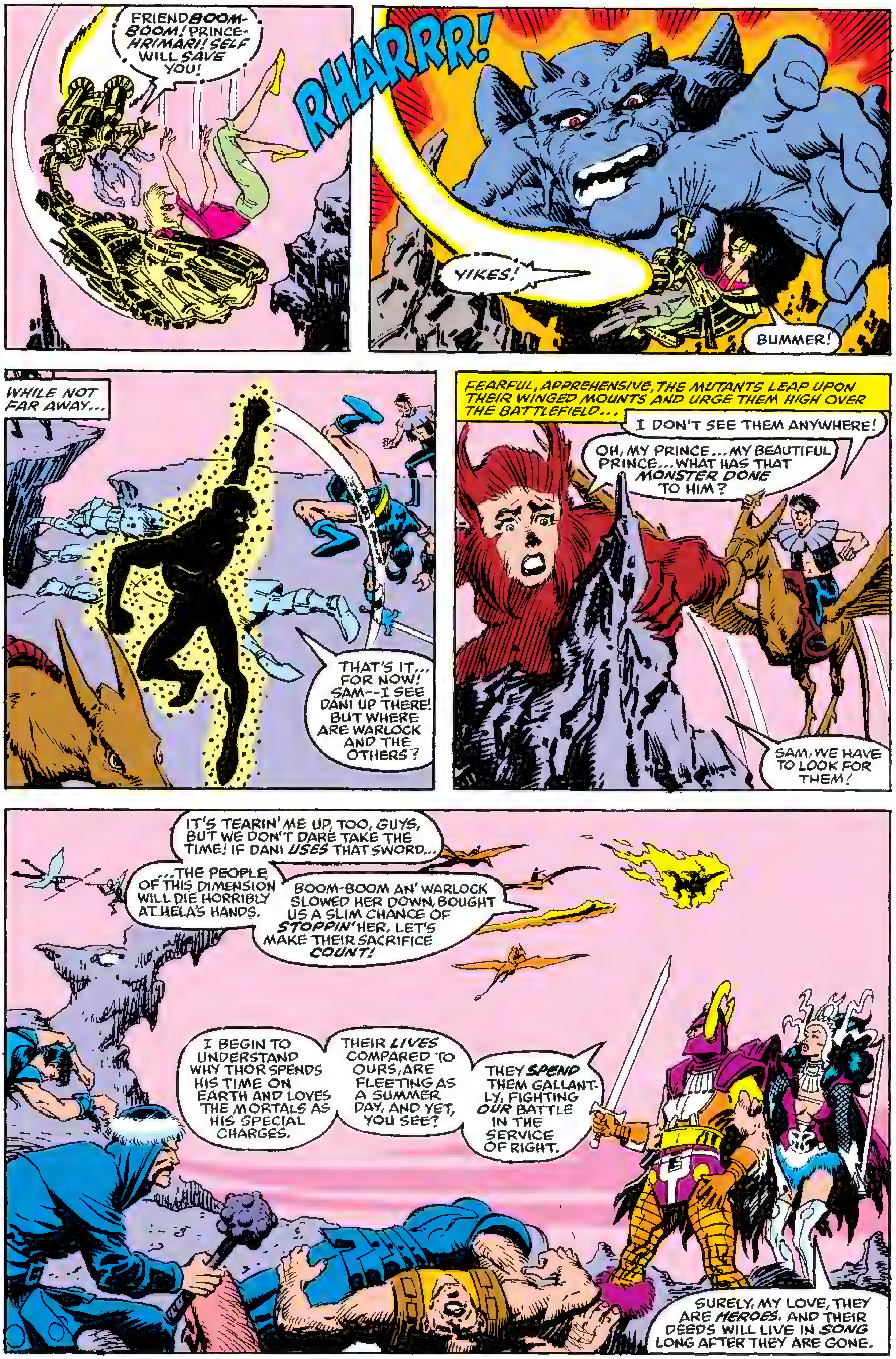

STAN LEE PRESENTS...
THE KILLING STROKE
IN THE SKY ABOVE ASGARD, THE DIMENSION RULED BY THE NORSE GODS, THE NEW MUTANTS AND THE FREE PEOPLES OF ASGARD HAVE JOINED FORCES AGAINST THE INVADING WARRIORS OF THE DEATH GODDESS, HELA.
THE MUTANTS ARE: SAM GUTHRIE, THE ROCKETING CANNONBALL.
THIS BATTLE GIVES CONFUSION A NEW AN' DEADLY MEANING! IT'S HARD TA TELL FRIEND FROM FOE--!
RICTOR--WHOSE SEISMIC POWER REALLY SHAKES THINGS UP.
NO KIDDING, SAM! EVEN THE HEROES THAT HELA HAS TAKEN OVER, FIGHT FOR HER LIKE DEMONS.
HOW DID THE ASGARDIANS DO IT? HOW DID THEY RALLY THIS VAST ARRAY AGAINST ME?
STILL HELA WILL WIN. SHE-WHO-WAS-DANIELLE MOONSTAR HAS BUT TO USE THE DEATH SWORD AS I COMMANDED HER... AND ASGARD WILL BE MINE!
ROBERTO DA COSTA, THE SUPER-STRONG SUNSPOT.
AND RAHNE SINCLAIRE--THE WOLF-GIRL, WOLFSBANE.

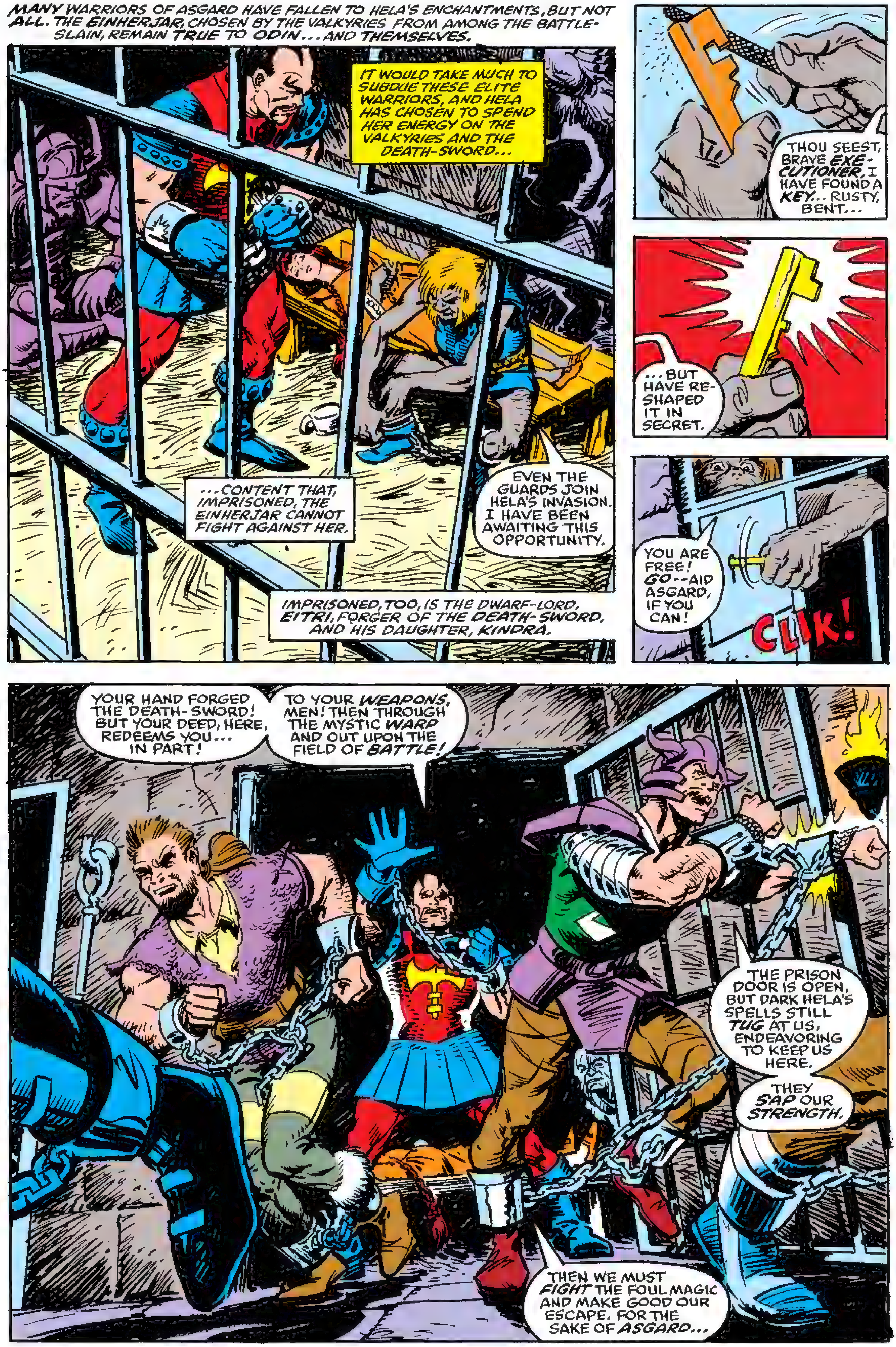
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · GEOFF ISHERWOOD GUEST PENCILER · BRET BLEVINS INKER · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

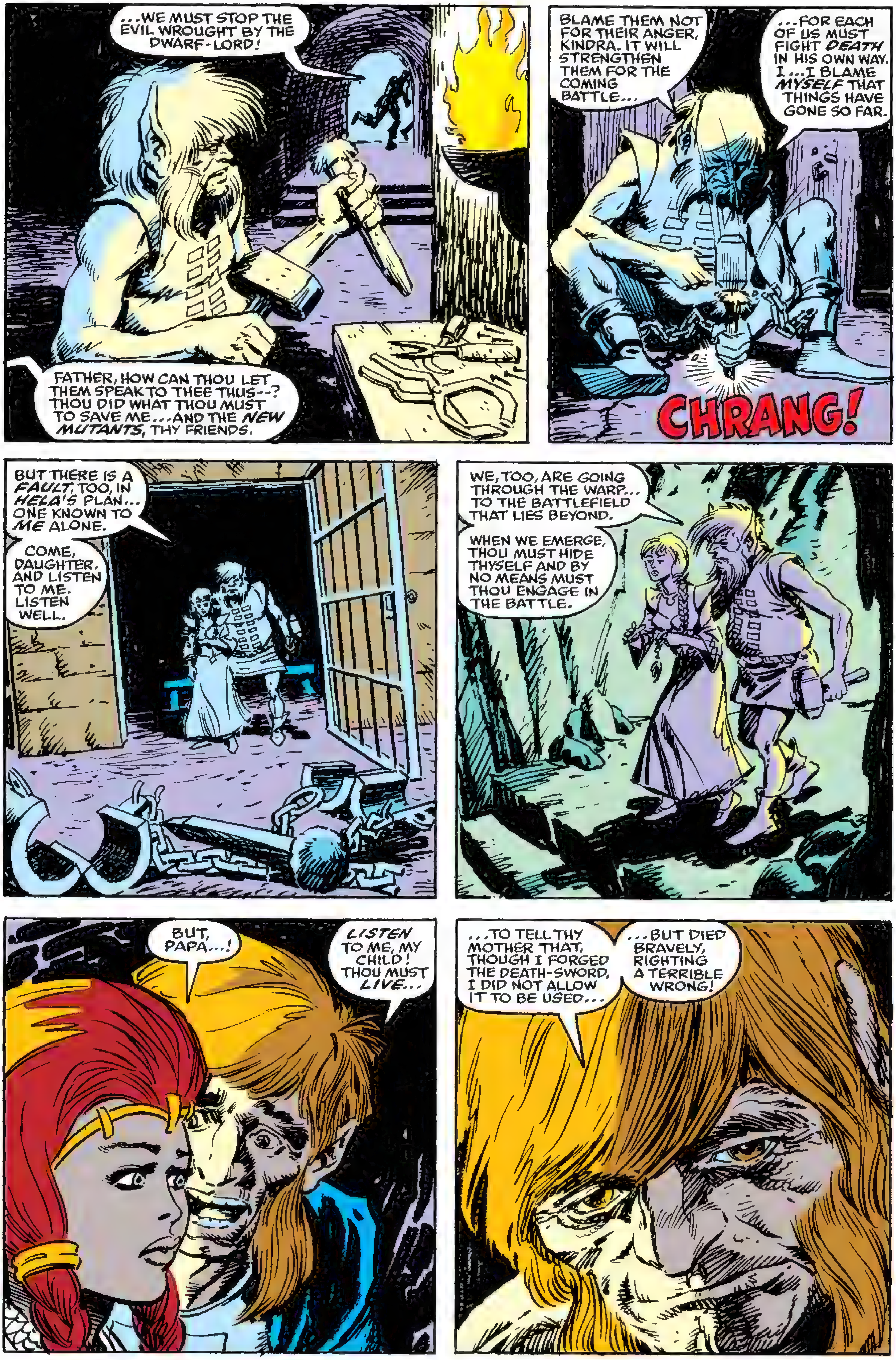

LOOK! THERE'S DANI-- FLYIN' WITH HELA'S OTHER TRANSFORMED VALKYRIES!
AFTER HER, GUYS. WE GOTTA STOP HER 'FORE SHE REACHES ODIN!
RANGED AGAINST THEM ARE HELA'S MONSTERS, ENSORCELLED GIANTS, TROLLS, DWARVES, DARK ELVES, AND MOST TERRIBLE OF ALL--THE DARK VALKYRIES WHO WERE ODIN'S MAIDEN WARRIORS AND CHOOSERS OF THE DEAD.
TRAGICALLY, AMONG THEM IS SHE WHO WAS ONCE THE NEW MUTANT, DANIELLE MOONSTAR. NOW SHE IS HELA'S CREATURE AND WIELDS HER MOST POTENT WEAPON--THE CURSED SWORD FORGED BY HELA'S CAPTIVE DWARF--ETIRI.
BELOW, THE ASGARDIAN WARRIORS THREE, HOGUN THE GRIM, FANDRAL THE DASHING, AND VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS SLAY THEIR THOUSANDS...
...WHILE VOLSTAGG'S CHILDREN DO BATTLE UPON THE MAGICAL CHARIOT GOATS BELONGING TO THE ABSENT THOR ODINSON, NORSE GOD OF THUNDER.*--
...AND BALDER THE BRAVE AND THE SORCERER OF THE NORNS, KARNILLA, LEAD THEIR ARMY OF STONE.
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, BOOM-BOOM AND WARLOCK OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND THE WOLF PRINCE, HRIMHARI, HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR FRIENDS AND BATTLE DESPERATELY...*
*SEE THOR #413.--BOB
*AND, FOLKS, LET US KNOW IF WE MISSED ANYONE IN OUR CASTS OF THOUSANDS. THANKS. --BOB 'N' DARYL

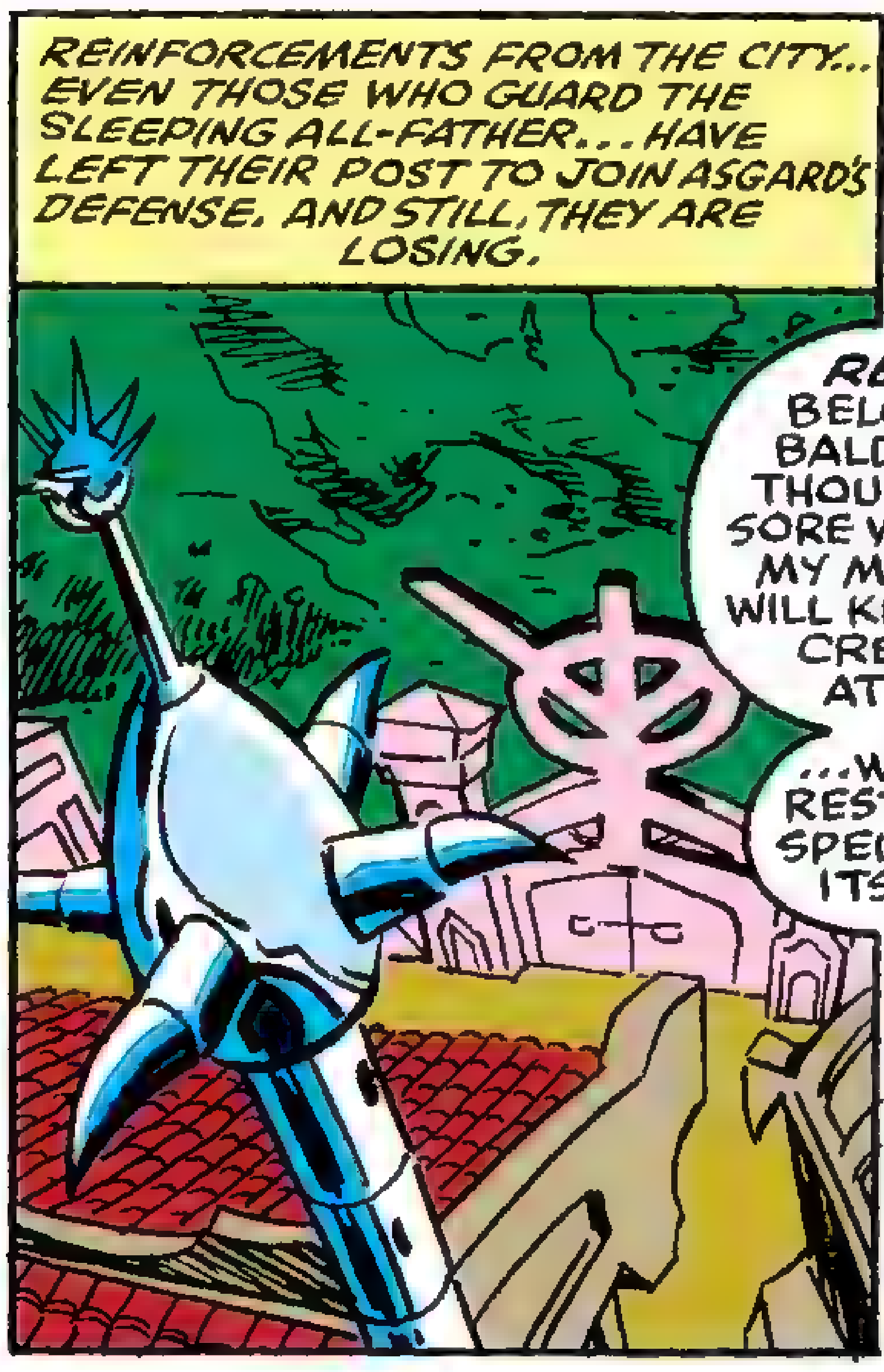

SAM, BOOM-BOOM AND WARLOCK AND MY WOLF PRINCE ARE DOWN BELOW--SURROUNDED!
DANI'S JUST CIRCLING... NOT DOING ANYTHING! SURELY WE HAVE TIME TO SAVE THEM.
IF WE HURRY, WE COULD USE THEM--WHEN WE GO AGAINST DANI.
WARLOCK, IT'S US! SHAPE-SHIFT TO PROTECT BOOM-BOOM, WHILE US AIRBORNE MUTIES DIVE BOMB THOSE SUCKERS!
WHAM!
AMID ALL THE CARNAGE, THIS IS BARELY TIME FOR GREETING...
WARLOCK, THIS IS SOME ARMY YOU GUYS MUSTERED!
AND WE DID IT BY OURSELVES! BROUGHT ALL THESE WARRIORS! AND NOW HELA WILL BE STOPPED BECAUSE OF US!
YOU WISH, BOOM-BOOM. THERE'S DANI, GUYS... AT ONE O'CLOCK AND CLIMBING!
SO...?
SO--DANI'S SWORD WILL KILL THIS ODIN GUY IN HIS ODIN-SLEEP...
...SO HELA CAN STEAL ODIN'S SOUL AND ALL HIS POWER...
SO... IT'S DANI WE HAVE TO STOP!
GREAT! AND HERE I PROMISED THAT SWEET OLD GIANT TIWAZ WE'D SAVE ASGARD!
THEN, SELFRIENDS, WE MUST!
AND WARLOCK SNATCHES UP HIS TRAVELING COMPANIONS, BOOM-BOOM AND PRINCE HRIMARI, AND BLASTS AT TOP SPEED AFTER THE RETREATING DANI...

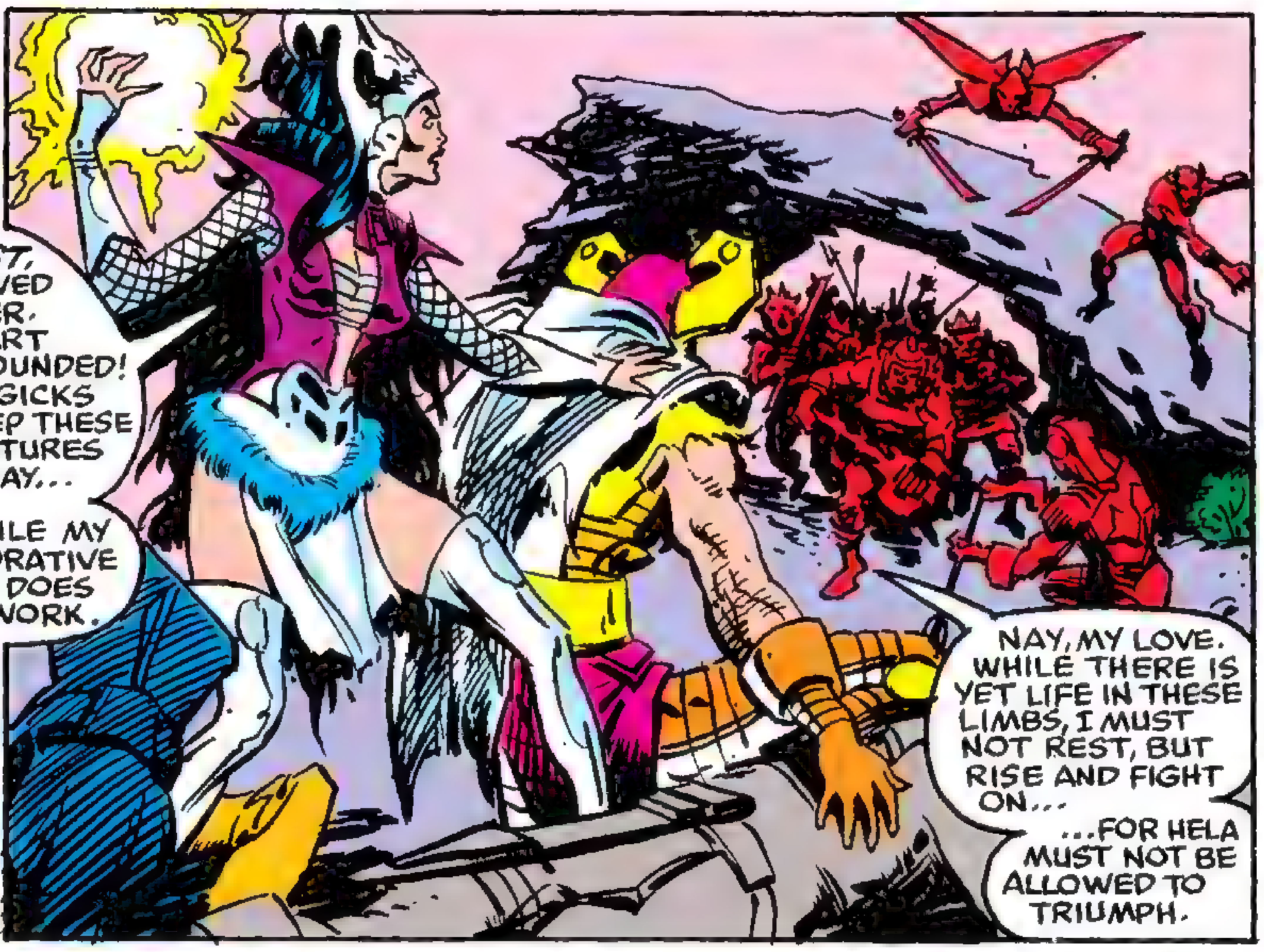

BLAST! WARLOCK, COME BACK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE A TEAM, YOU IDIOTS! BOOM-BOOM, THIS ISN'T A GAME!
MOUNT UP, GUYS. PRONTO!
THEY WEREN'T LISTENING!
SAM-- TROUBLE!
WE'RE LUCKY THEY GOT AWAY FROM THIS BATTLE AND WENT AFTER HER! DANI'S CHANGED MORE THAN EVER... MORE POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS...
...BUT MAYBE... MAYBE THEY CAN ENGAGE HER... SLOW HER DOWN TILL WE FIGHT FREE.
WHILE, HIGH ABOVE...
THIS IS...3...ONE PROBLEM-FILLED ENVIRONMENT YOU ASGARDIANS HAVE HERE, PRINCE HARI ...2...YOU KNOW THAT?
ZZZIP!
...IT MAKES NEW YORK LOOK ...1... LIKE DISNEY LAND!
QUIET, GOOD BOOM-BOOM... OUR AIM MUST BE TRUE. YOUR FRIEND DANI MUST BE DISTRACTED!
BOOM!
FOOLS!
YOU HAVE PRESUMED ONCE TOO OFTEN UPON THE MOONSTAR'S MEMORIES TO SAVE YOU!
PRESUME NO LONGER!
WHUMPH!
DANIELLE MOONSTAR'S HOLD ON ME IS ENDED AND DARKNESS IS HER MISTRESS NOW -- AND THINE!
OOOBOY!

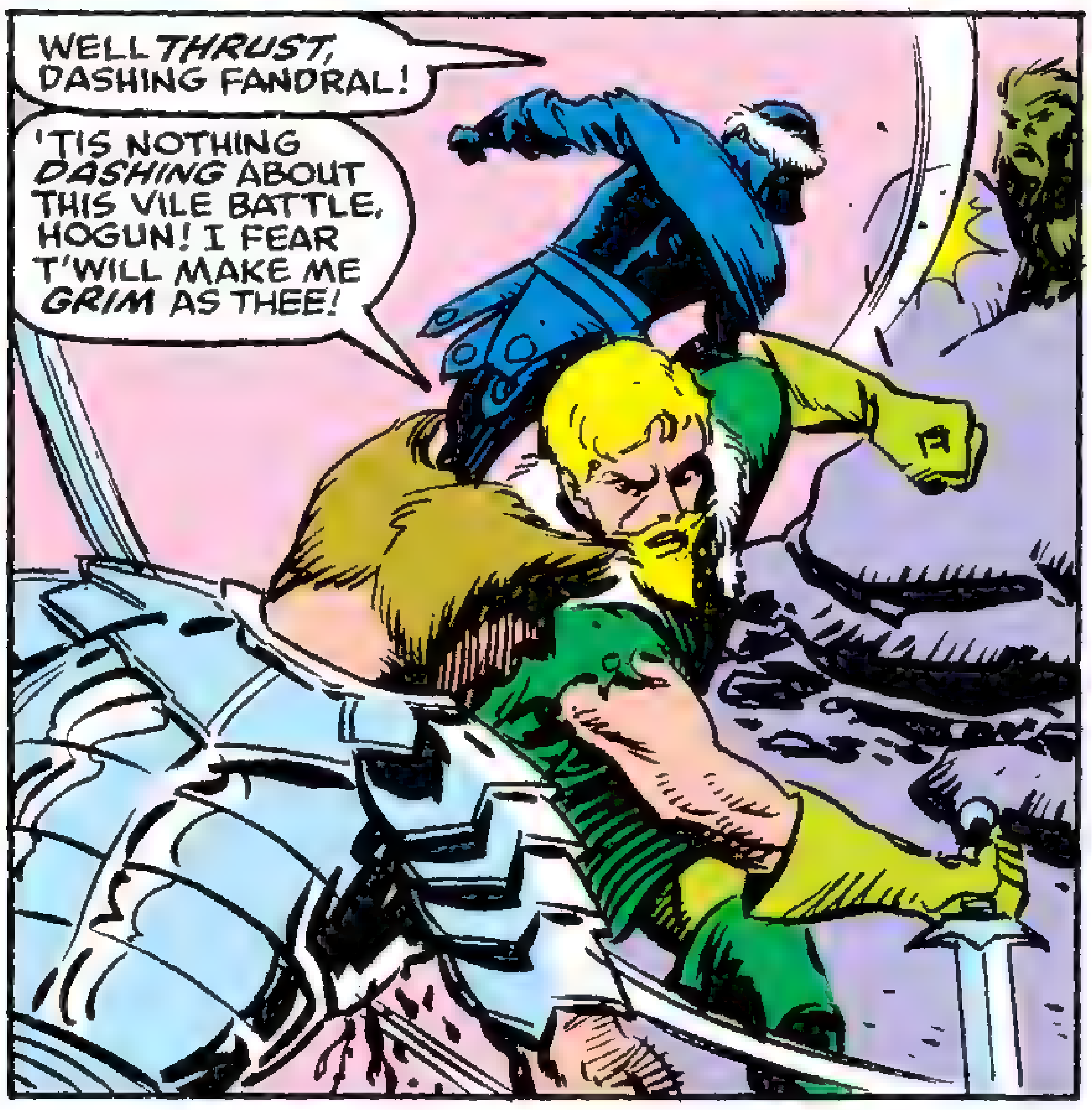

FRIEND *BOOM-BOOM!* PRINCE-HRIMARI! SELF WILL *SAVE* YOU!
RHARRR!
YIKES!
BUMMER!
WHILE NOT FAR AWAY...
THAT'S IT... FOR NOW! SAM--I SEE DANI UP THERE! BUT WHERE ARE WARLOCK AND THE OTHERS?
FEARFUL, APPREHENSIVE, THE MUTANTS LEAP UPON THEIR WINGED MOUNTS AND URGE THEM HIGH OVER THE BATTLEFIELD...
I DON'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE!
OH, MY PRINCE... MY BEAUTIFUL PRINCE... WHAT HAS THAT *MONSTER DONE* TO HIM?
SAM, WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR THEM!
IT'S TEARIN' ME UP, TOO, GUYS, BUT WE DON'T DARE TAKE THE TIME! IF DANI *USES* THAT SWORD...
...THE PEOPLE OF THIS DIMENSION WILL DIE HORRIBLY AT HELA'S HANDS.
BOOM-BOOM AN' WARLOCK SLOWED HER DOWN, BOUGHT US A SLIM CHANCE OF *STOPPIN'* HER. LET'S MAKE THEIR SACRIFICE *COUNT!*
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY THOR SPENDS HIS TIME ON EARTH AND LOVES THE MORTALS AS HIS SPECIAL CHARGES.
THEIR *LIVES* COMPARED TO OURS, ARE FLEETING AS A SUMMER DAY, AND YET, YOU SEE?
THEY *SPEND* THEM GALLANTLY, FIGHTING *OUR* BATTLE IN THE SERVICE OF RIGHT.
SURELY, MY LOVE, THEY ARE *HEROES*. AND THEIR DEEDS WILL LIVE IN *SONG* LONG AFTER THEY ARE GONE.

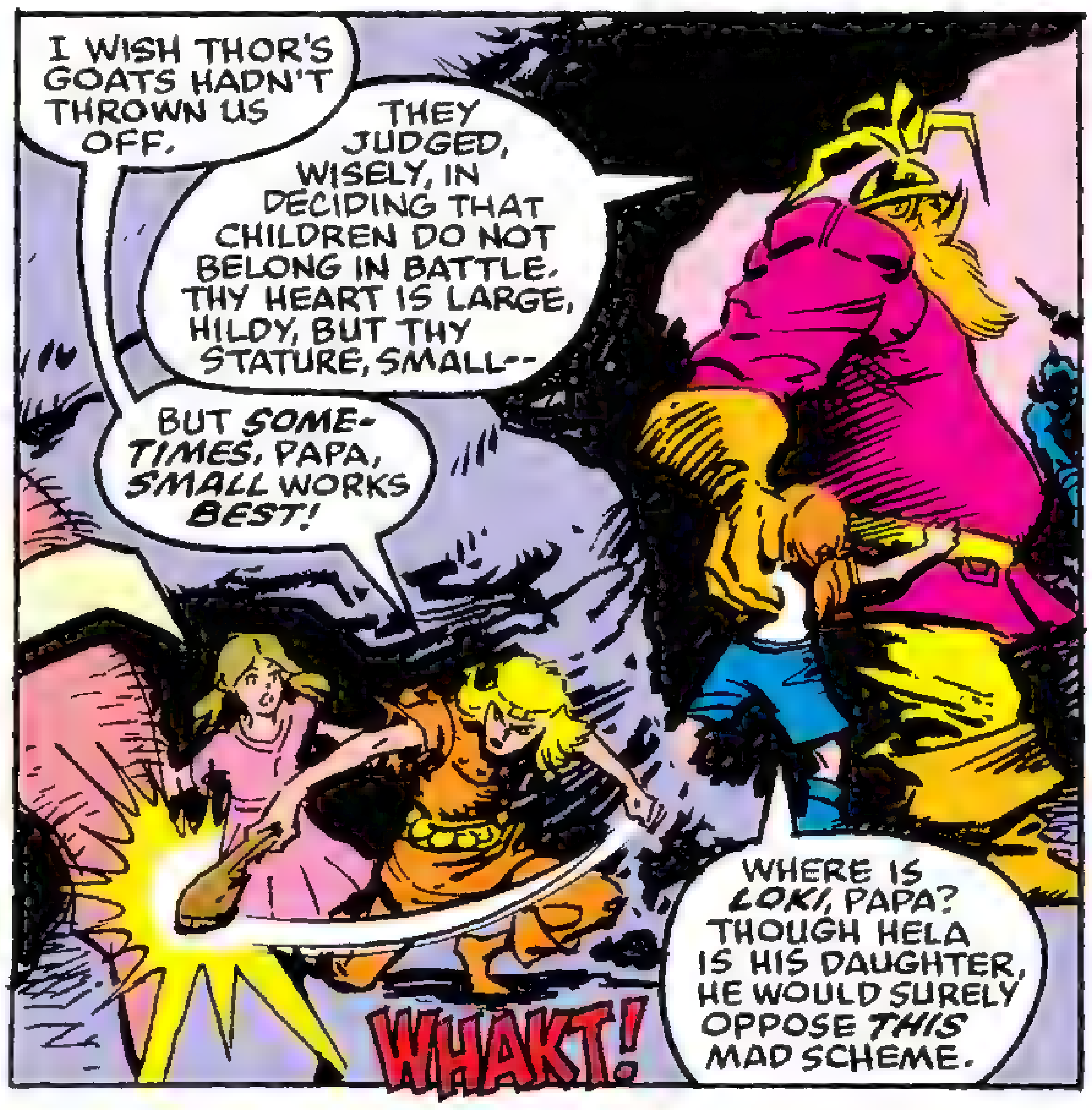

MANY WARRIORS OF ASGARD HAVE FALLEN TO HELA'S ENCHANTMENTS, BUT NOT ALL. THE EINHERJAR, CHOSEN BY THE VALKYRIES FROM AMONG THE BATTLE-SLAIN, REMAIN TRUE TO ODIN... AND THEMSELVES.
IT WOULD TAKE MUCH TO SUBDUE THESE ELITE WARRIORS, AND HELA HAS CHOSEN TO SPEND HER ENERGY ON THE VALKYRIES AND THE DEATH-SWORD...
...CONTENT THAT, IMPRISONED, THE EINHERJAR CANNOT FIGHT AGAINST HER.
EVEN THE GUARDS JOIN HELA'S INVASION. I HAVE BEEN AWAITING THIS OPPORTUNITY.
IMPRISONED, TOO, IS THE DWARF-LORD, EITRI, FORGER OF THE DEATH-SWORD, AND HIS DAUGHTER, KINDRA.
THOU SEEST, BRAVE EXECUTIONER, I HAVE FOUND A KEY... RUSTY, BENT...
...BUT HAVE RESHAPED IT IN SECRET.
YOU ARE FREE! GO--AID ASGARD, IF YOU CAN!
CLIK!
YOUR HAND FORGED THE DEATH-SWORD! BUT YOUR DEED, HERE, REDEEMS YOU... IN PART!
TO YOUR WEAPONS, MEN! THEN THROUGH THE MYSTIC WARP AND OUT UPON THE FIELD OF BATTLE!
THE PRISON DOOR IS OPEN, BUT DARK HELA'S SPELLS STILL TUG AT US, ENDEAVORING TO KEEP US HERE.
THEY SAP OUR STRENGTH.
THEN WE MUST FIGHT THE FOUL MAGIC AND MAKE GOOD OUR ESCAPE, FOR THE SAKE OF ASGARD...

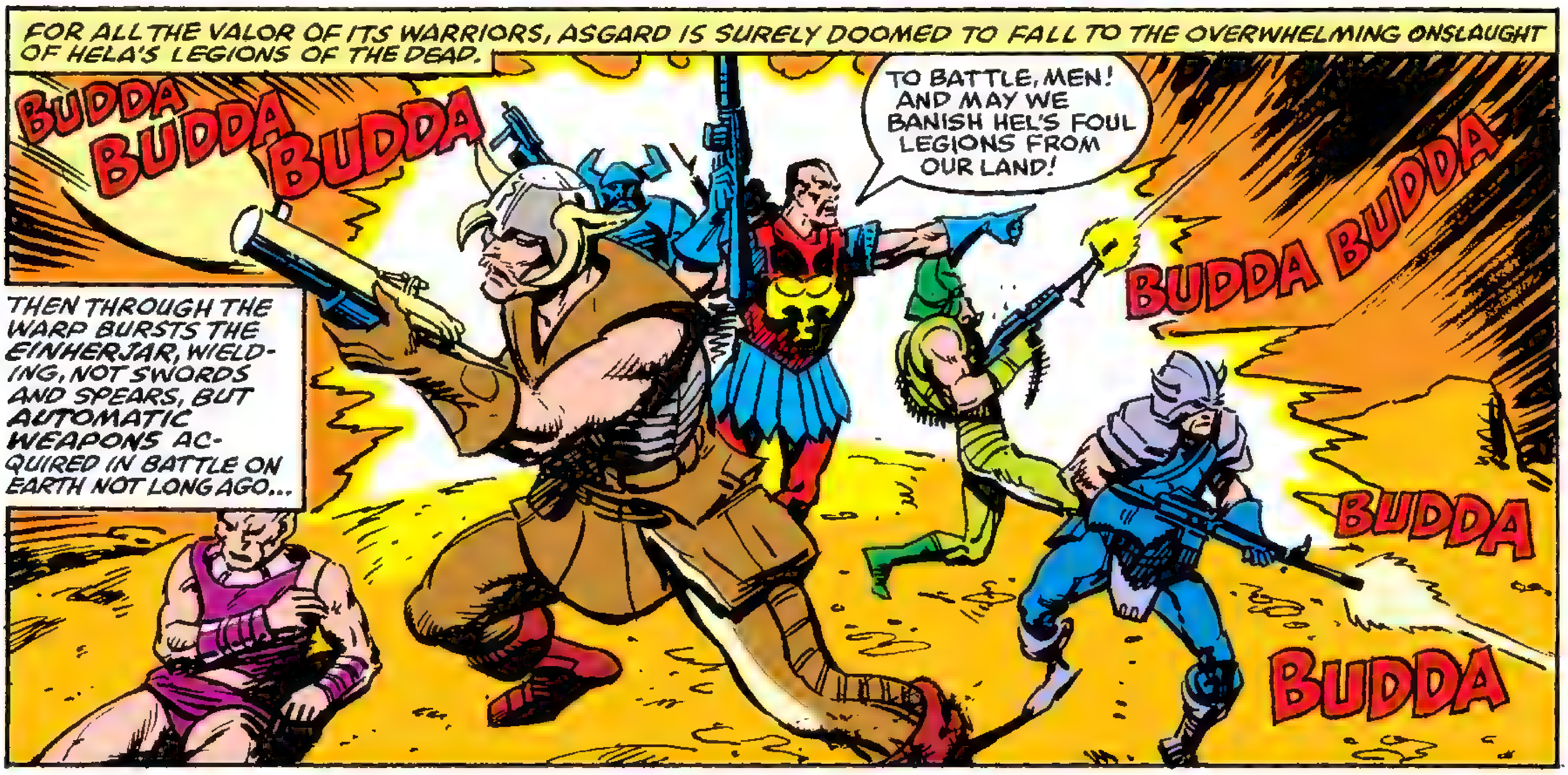

...WE MUST STOP THE EVIL WROUGHT BY THE DWARF-LORD!
FATHER, HOW CAN THOU LET THEM SPEAK TO THEE THUS--? THOU DID WHAT THOU MUST TO SAVE ME...AND THE *NEW MUTANTS*, THY FRIENDS.
BLAME THEM NOT FOR THEIR ANGER, KINDRA. IT WILL STRENGTHEN THEM FOR THE COMING BATTLE...
...FOR EACH OF US MUST FIGHT *DEATH* IN HIS OWN WAY. I...I BLAME *MYSELF* THAT THINGS HAVE GONE SO FAR.
CHRANG!
BUT THERE IS A *FAULT*, TOO, IN *HELA'S* PLAN... ONE KNOWN TO *ME* ALONE.
COME, DAUGHTER. AND LISTEN TO ME. LISTEN WELL.
WE, TOO, ARE GOING THROUGH THE WARP... TO THE BATTLEFIELD THAT LIES BEYOND.
WHEN WE EMERGE, THOU MUST HIDE THYSELF AND BY NO MEANS MUST THOU ENGAGE IN THE BATTLE.
BUT, PAPA...!
LISTEN TO ME, MY CHILD! THOU MUST *LIVE*...
...TO TELL THY MOTHER THAT, THOUGH I FORGED THE DEATH-SWORD, I DID NOT ALLOW IT TO BE USED...
...BUT DIED BRAVELY, RIGHTING A TERRIBLE WRONG!

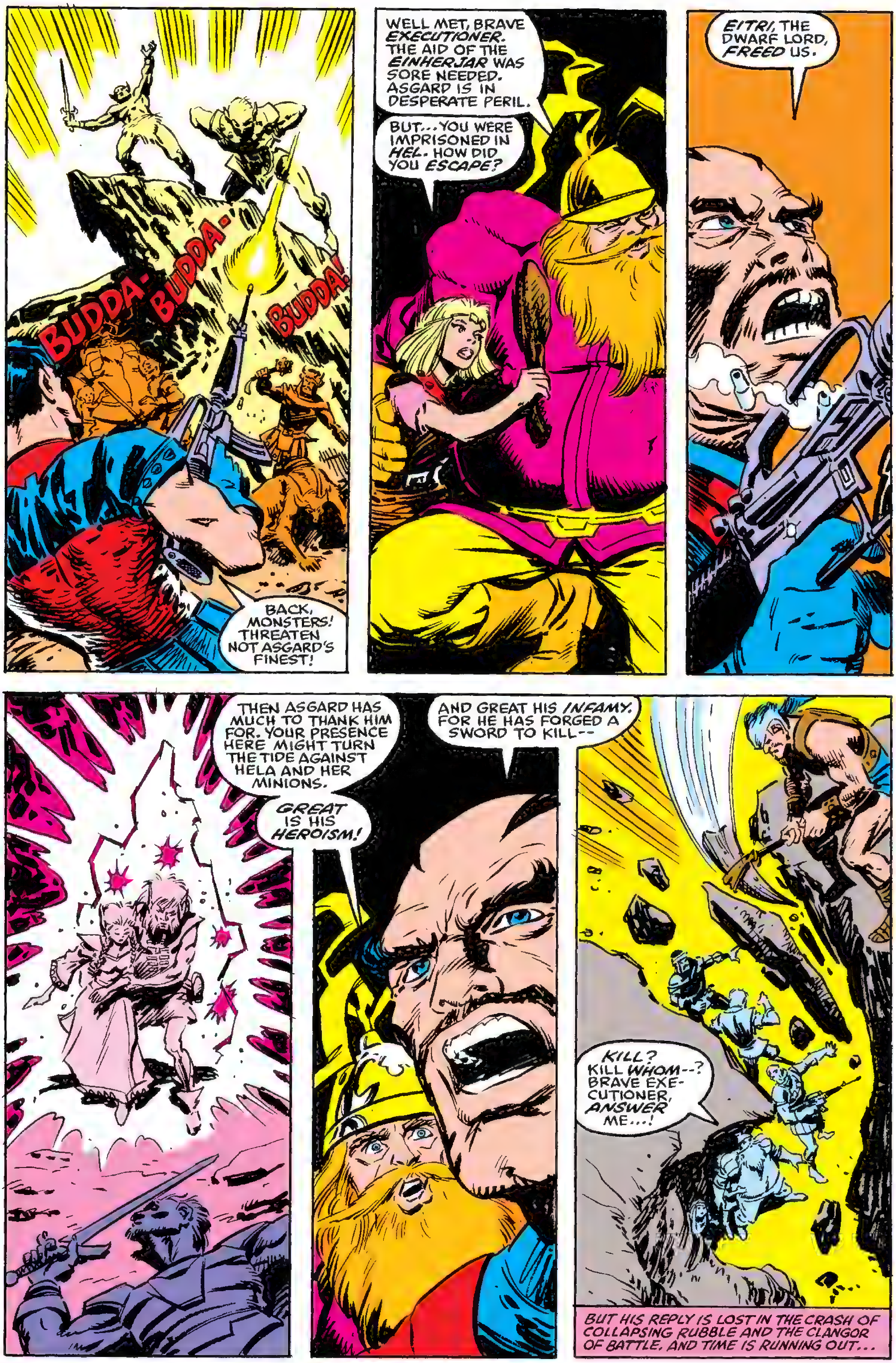

REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE CITY... EVEN THOSE WHO GUARD THE SLEEPING ALL-FATHER... HAVE LEFT THEIR POST TO JOIN ASGARD'S DEFENSE. AND STILL, THEY ARE LOSING.

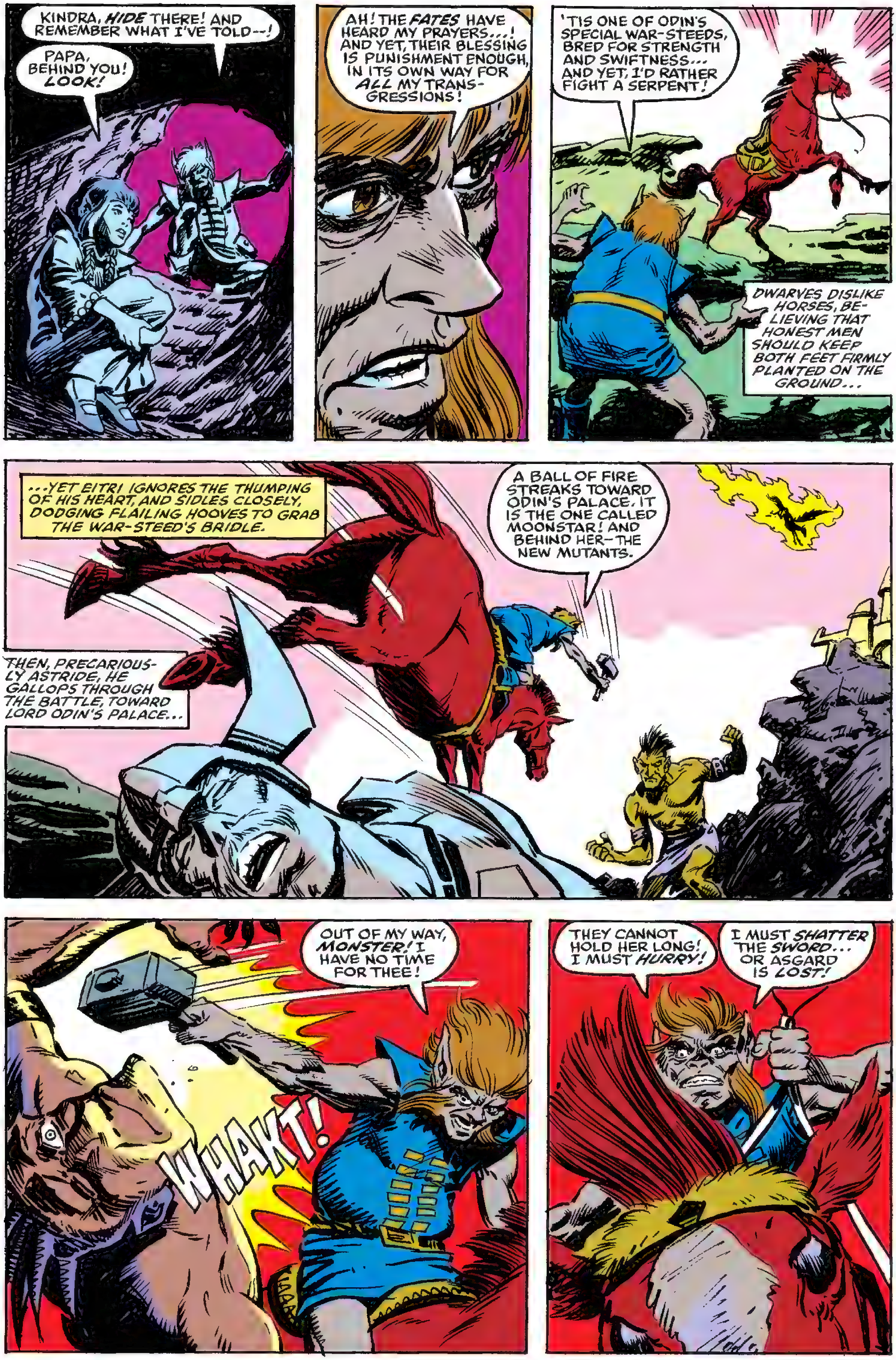

REST, BELOVED BALDER. THOU ART SORE WOUNDED! MY MAGICKS WILL KEEP THESE CREATURES AT BAY...
...WHILE MY RESTORATIVE SPELL DOES ITS WORK.
NAY, MY LOVE. WHILE THERE IS YET LIFE IN THESE LIMBS, I MUST NOT REST, BUT RISE AND FIGHT ON...
...FOR HELA MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRIUMPH.

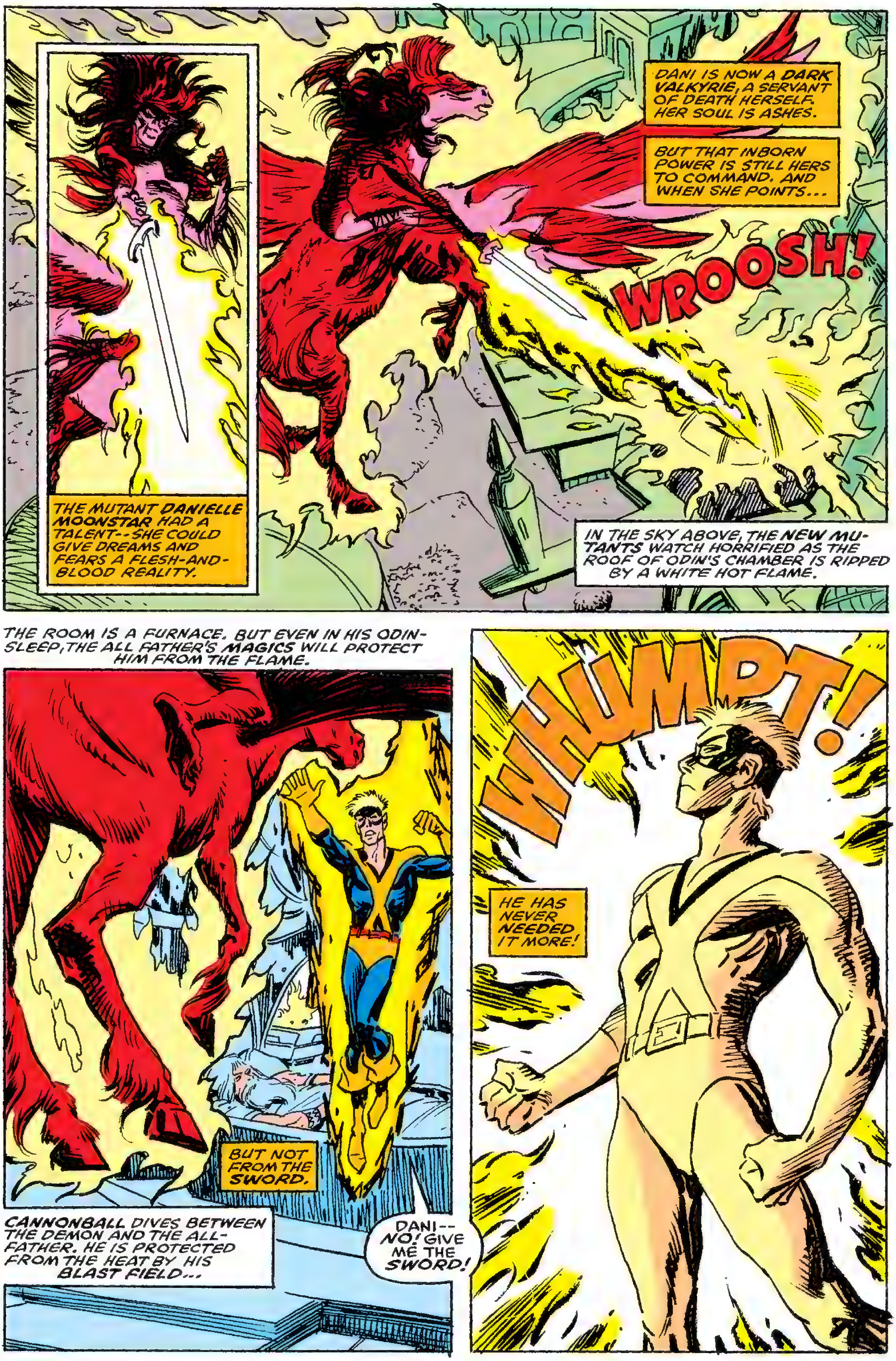

WELL THRUST, DASHING FANDRAL!
'TIS NOTHING DASHING ABOUT THIS VILE BATTLE, HOGUN! I FEAR T'WILL MAKE ME GRIM AS THEE!

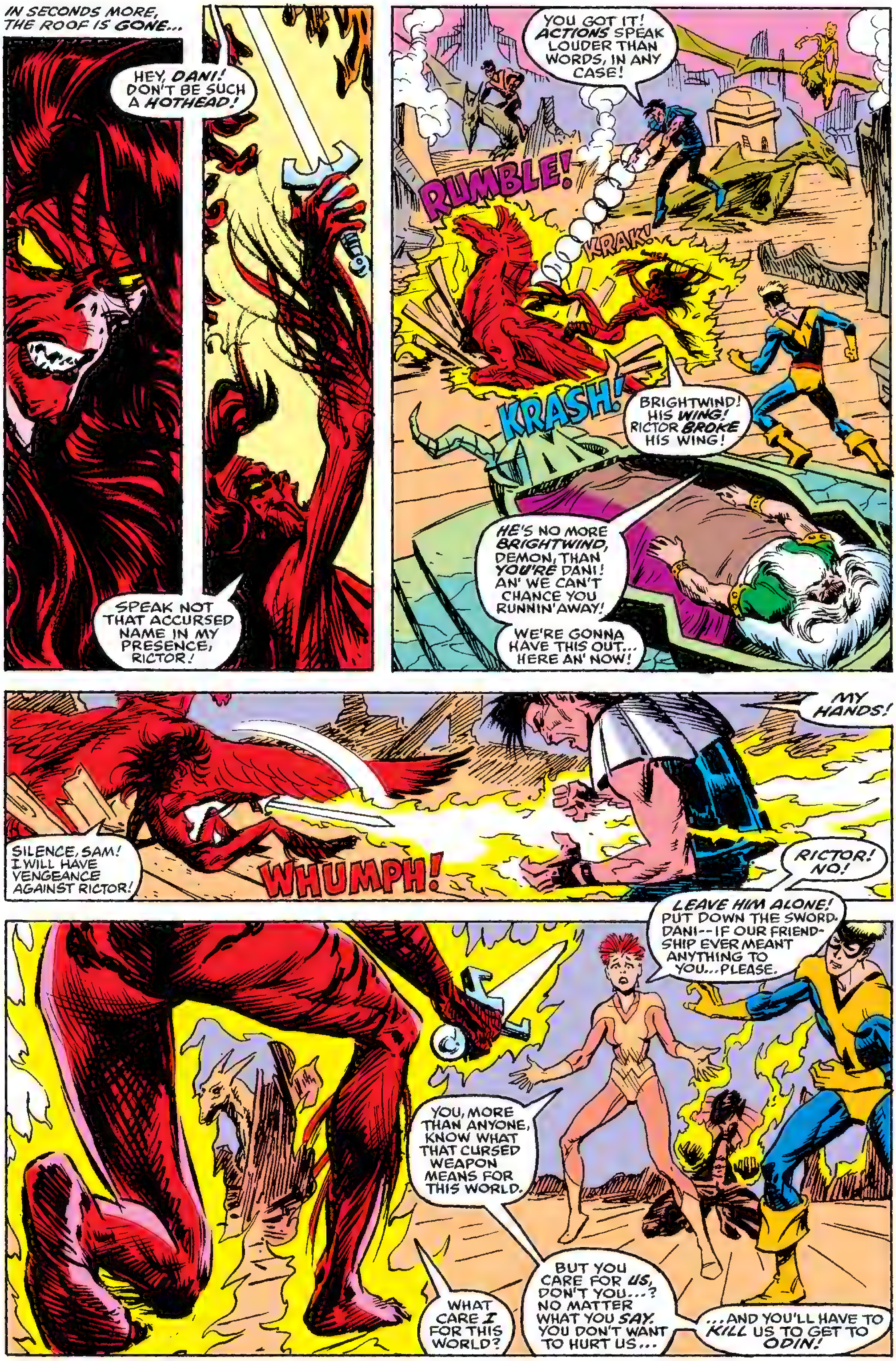

I WISH THOR'S GOATS HADN'T THROWN US OFF.
THEY JUDGED, WISELY, IN DECIDING THAT CHILDREN DO NOT BELONG IN BATTLE. THY HEART IS LARGE, HILDY, BUT THY STATURE, SMALL--
BUT SOMETIMES, PAPA, SMALL WORKS BEST!
WHAKT!
WHERE IS LOKI, PAPA? THOUGH HELA IS HIS DAUGHTER, HE WOULD SURELY OPPOSE THIS MAD SCHEME.

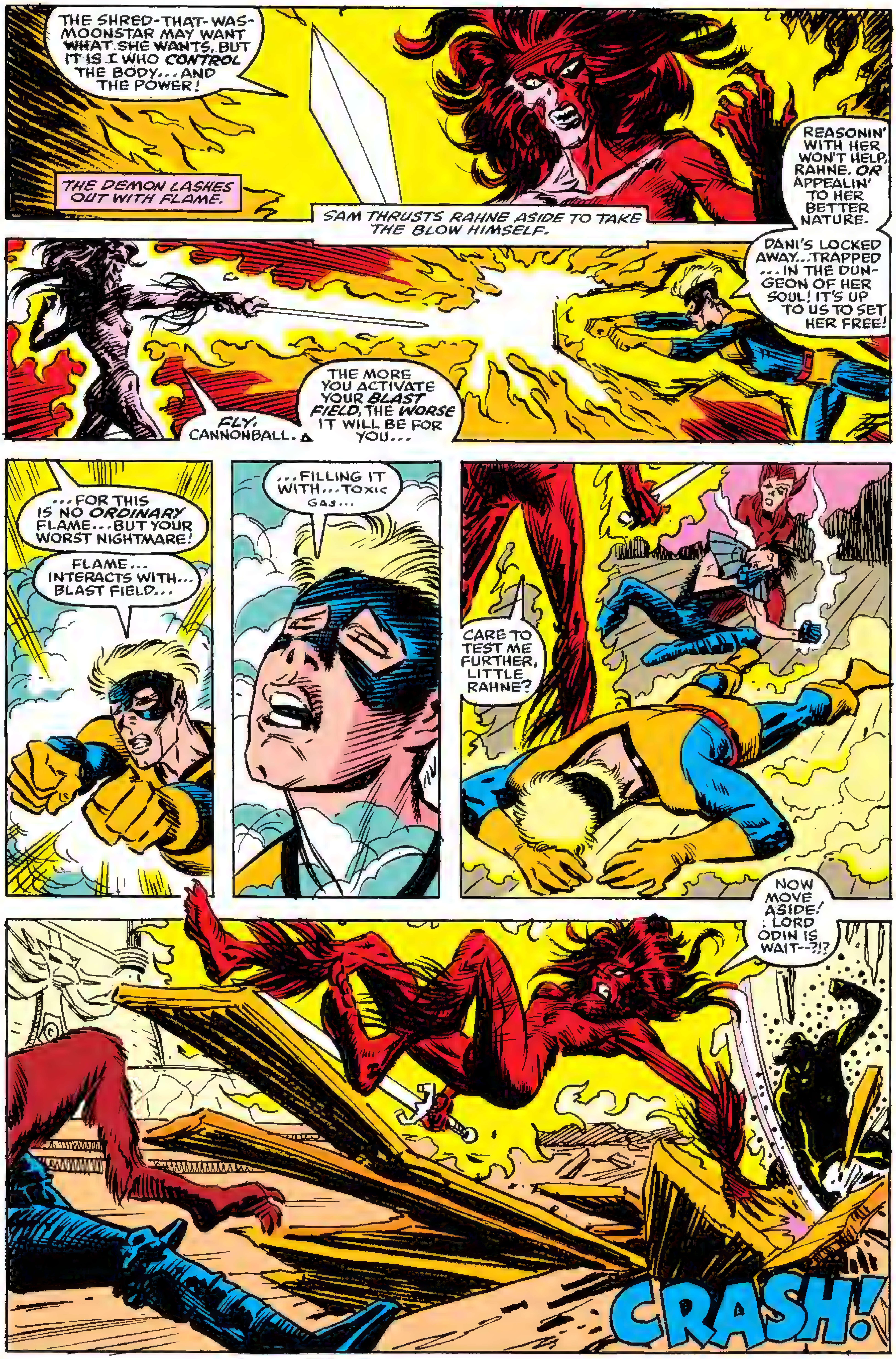

FOR ALL THE VALOR OF ITS WARRIORS, ASGARD IS SURELY DOOMED TO FALL TO THE OVERWHELMING ONSLAUGHT OF HELA'S LEGIONS OF THE DEAD.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
TO BATTLE, MEN! AND MAY WE BANISH HEL'S FOUL LEGIONS FROM OUR LAND!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
THEN THROUGH THE WARP BURSTS THE EINHERJAR, WIELDING, NOT SWORDS AND SPEARS, BUT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ACQUIRED IN BATTLE ON EARTH NOT LONG AGO...
BUDDA
BUDDA

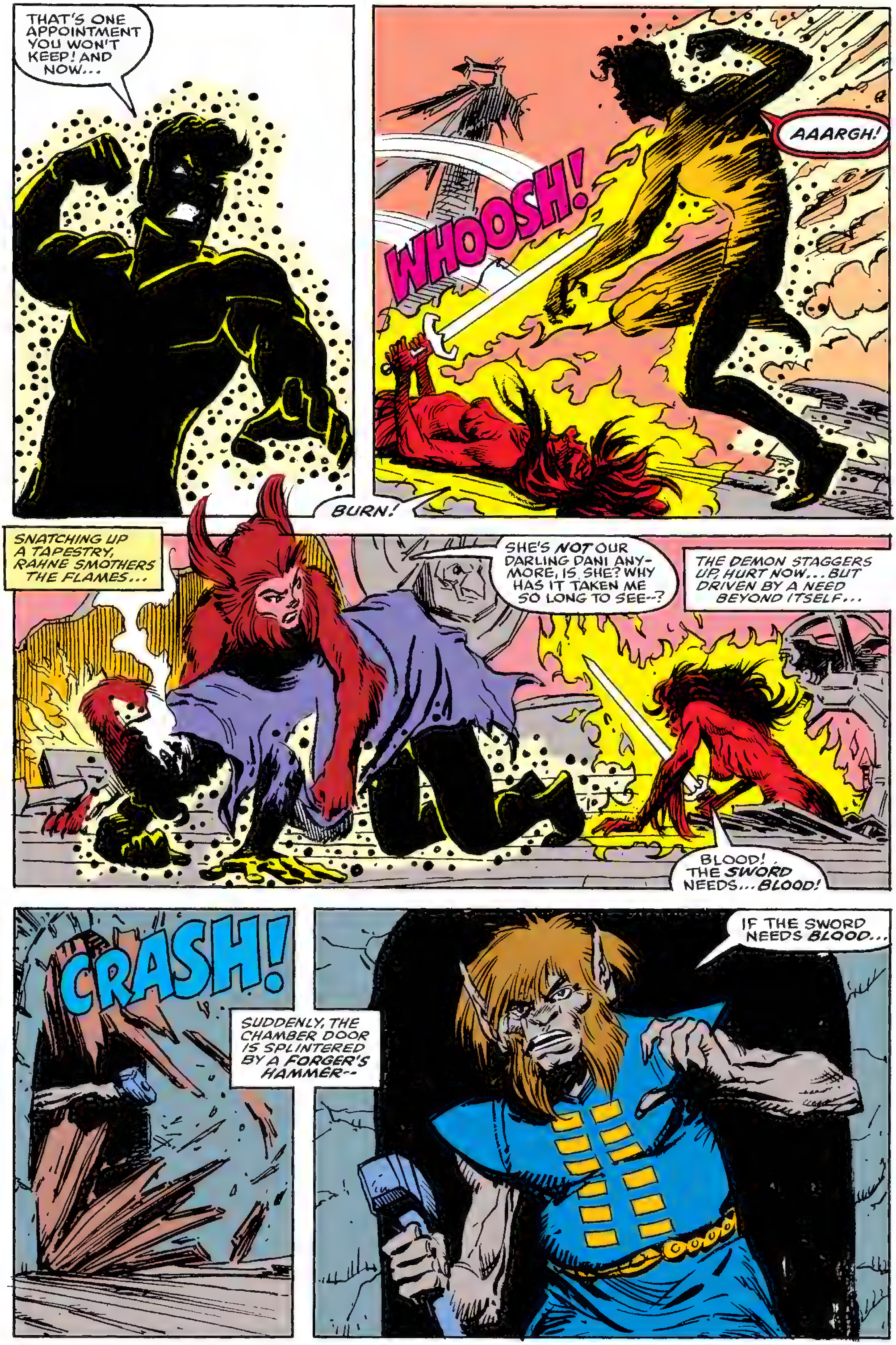

BUDDA- BUDDA- BUDDA!
BACK, MONSTERS! THREATEN NOT ASGARD'S FINEST!
WELL MET, BRAVE *EXECUTIONER*. THE AID OF THE *EINHERJAR* WAS SORE NEEDED. ASGARD IS IN DESPERATE PERIL.
BUT... YOU WERE IMPRISONED IN *HEL*. HOW DID YOU *ESCAPE?*
EITRI, THE DWARF LORD, *FREED* US.
THEN ASGARD HAS MUCH TO THANK HIM FOR. YOUR PRESENCE HERE MIGHT TURN THE TIDE AGAINST HELA AND HER MINIONS.
GREAT IS HIS *HEROISM!*
AND GREAT HIS *INFAMY*. FOR HE HAS FORGED A SWORD TO KILL--
KILL? KILL *WHOM*--? BRAVE EXECUTIONER, *ANSWER* ME...!
BUT HIS REPLY IS LOST IN THE CRASH OF COLLAPSING RUBBLE AND THE CLANGOR OF BATTLE, AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT...

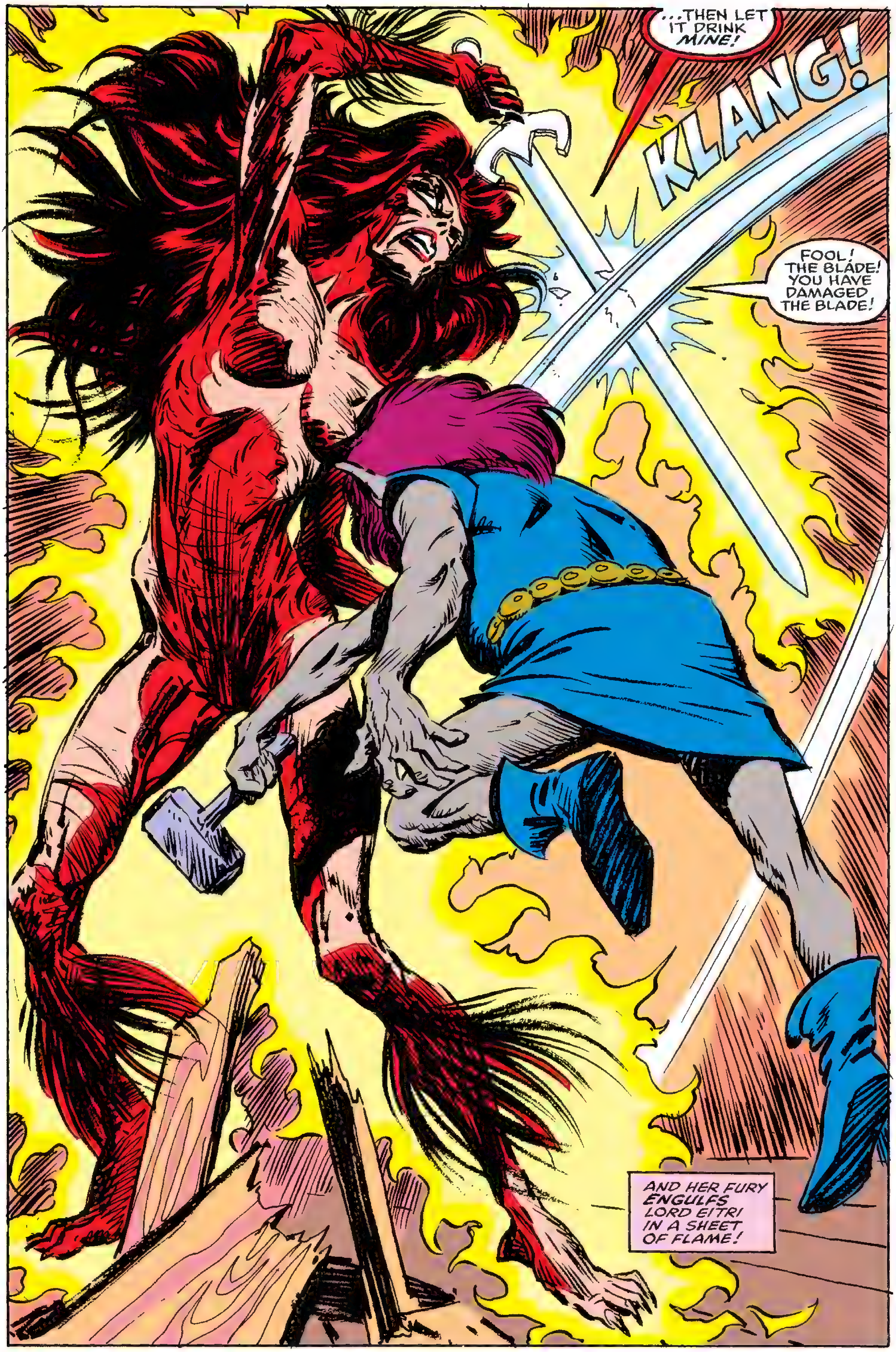

KINDRA, *HIDE* THERE! AND REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TOLD--!
PAPA, BEHIND YOU! *LOOK!*
AH! THE *FATES* HAVE HEARD MY PRAYERS...! AND YET, THEIR BLESSING IS PUNISHMENT ENOUGH, IN ITS OWN WAY FOR *ALL* MY TRANSGRESSIONS!
'TIS ONE OF ODIN'S SPECIAL WAR-STEEDS, BRED FOR STRENGTH AND SWIFTNESS... AND YET, I'D RATHER FIGHT A SERPENT!
DWARVES DISLIKE HORSES, BELIEVING THAT HONEST MEN SHOULD KEEP BOTH FEET FIRMLY PLANTED ON THE GROUND...
...YET EITRI IGNORES THE THUMPING OF HIS HEART, AND SIDLES CLOSELY, DODGING FLAILING HOOVES TO GRAB THE WAR-STEED'S BRIDLE.
A BALL OF FIRE STREAKS TOWARD ODIN'S PALACE. IT IS THE ONE CALLED MOONSTAR! AND BEHIND HER--THE NEW MUTANTS.
THEN, PRECARIOUSLY ASTRIDE, HE GALLOPS THROUGH THE BATTLE, TOWARD LORD ODIN'S PALACE...
OUT OF MY WAY, *MONSTER!* I HAVE NO TIME FOR THEE!
WHAKT!
THEY CANNOT HOLD HER LONG! I MUST *HURRY!*
I MUST *SHATTER* THE *SWORD*... OR ASGARD IS *LOST!*

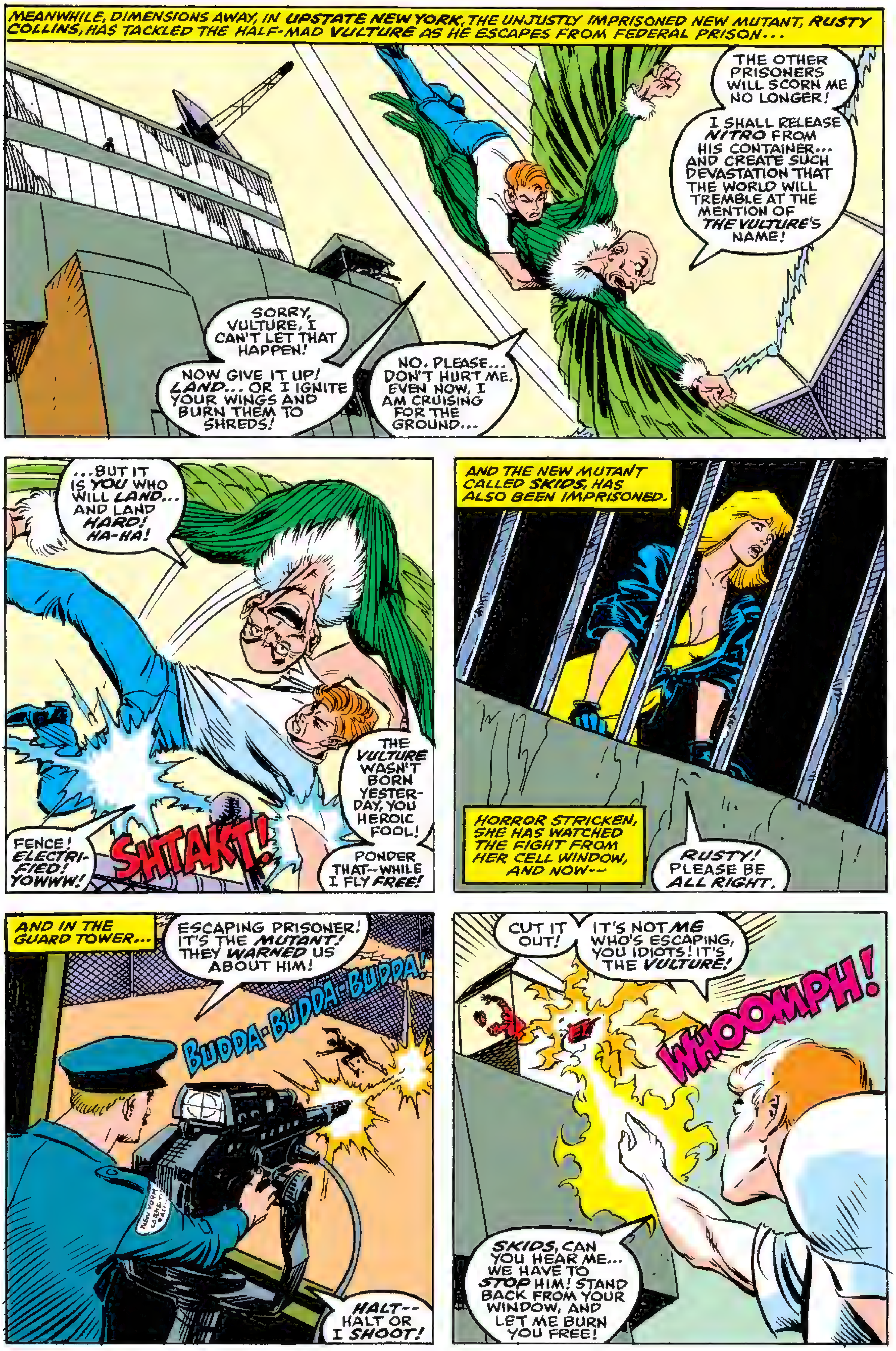

THE MUTANT DANIELLE MOONSTAR HAD A TALENT--SHE COULD GIVE DREAMS AND FEARS A FLESH-AND-BLOOD REALITY.
DANI IS NOW A DARK VALKYRIE, A SERVANT OF DEATH HERSELF. HER SOUL IS ASHES.
BUT THAT INBORN POWER IS STILL HERS TO COMMAND. AND WHEN SHE POINTS...
WROOSH!
IN THE SKY ABOVE, THE NEW MUTANTS WATCH HORRIFIED AS THE ROOF OF ODIN'S CHAMBER IS RIPPED BY A WHITE HOT FLAME.
THE ROOM IS A FURNACE. BUT EVEN IN HIS ODIN-SLEEP, THE ALL FATHER'S MAGICS WILL PROTECT HIM FROM THE FLAME.
BUT NOT FROM THE SWORD.
CANNONBALL DIVES BETWEEN THE DEMON AND THE ALL-FATHER. HE IS PROTECTED FROM THE HEAT BY HIS BLAST FIELD...
DANI-- NO! GIVE ME THE SWORD!
WHUMPT!
HE HAS NEVER NEEDED IT MORE!

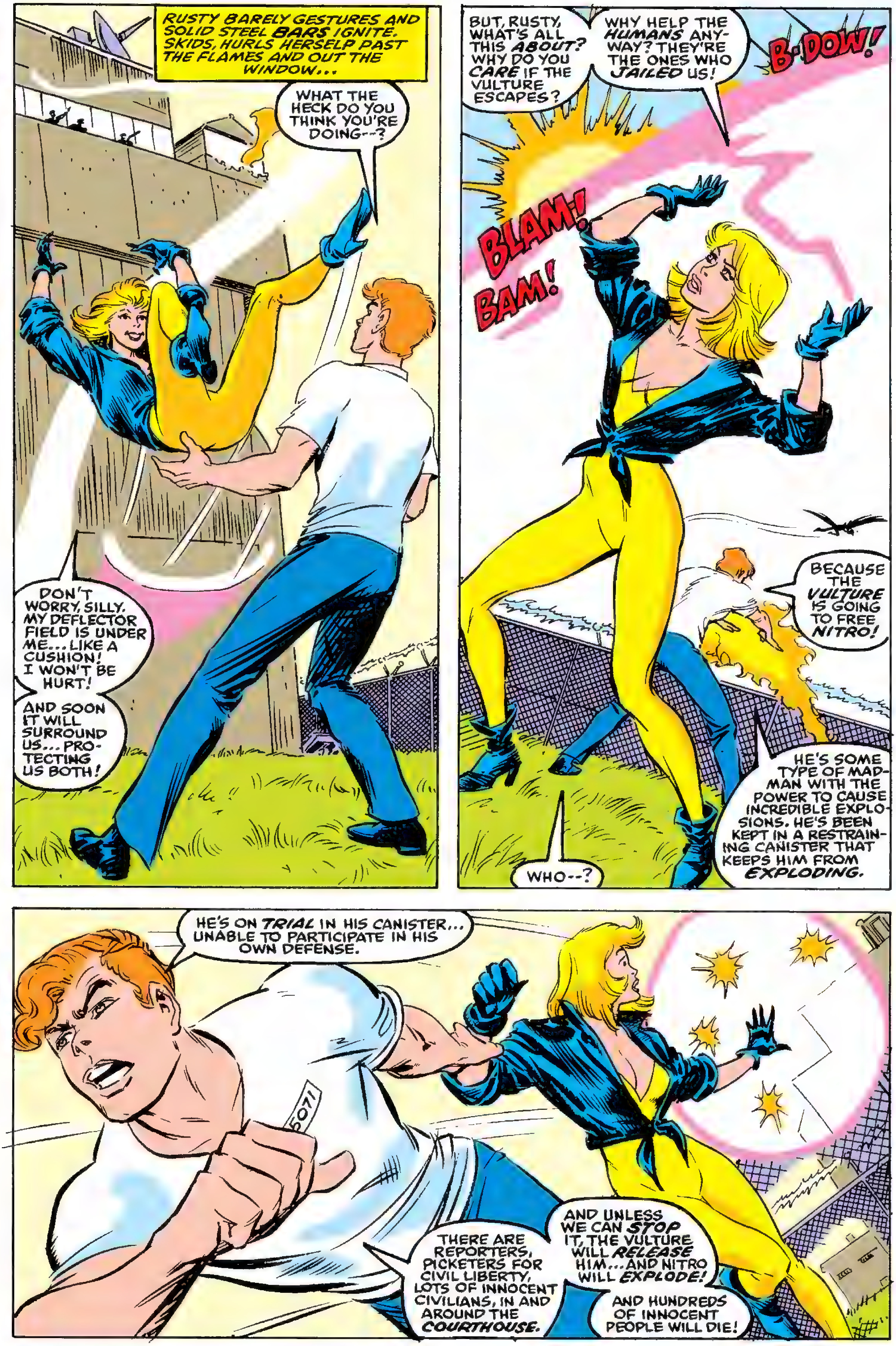

IN SECONDS MORE, THE ROOF IS GONE...
HEY, DANI! DON'T BE SUCH A HOTHEAD!
SPEAK NOT THAT ACCURSED NAME IN MY PRESENCE, RICTOR!
YOU GOT IT! ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS, IN ANY CASE!
RUMBLE!
KRAK!
KRASH!
BRIGHTWIND! HIS WING! RICTOR BROKE HIS WING!
HE'S NO MORE BRIGHTWIND, DEMON, THAN YOU'RE DANI! AN' WE CAN'T CHANCE YOU RUNNIN' AWAY!
WE'RE GONNA HAVE THIS OUT... HERE AN' NOW!
SILENCE, SAM! I WILL HAVE VENGEANCE AGAINST RICTOR!
WHUMPH!
MY HANDS!
RICTOR! NO!
LEAVE HIM ALONE! PUT DOWN THE SWORD, DANI--IF OUR FRIENDSHIP EVER MEANT ANYTHING TO YOU... PLEASE.
YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE, KNOW WHAT THAT CURSED WEAPON MEANS FOR THIS WORLD.
WHAT CARE I FOR THIS WORLD?
BUT YOU CARE FOR US, DON'T YOU...? NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT US...
...AND YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL US TO GET TO ODIN!

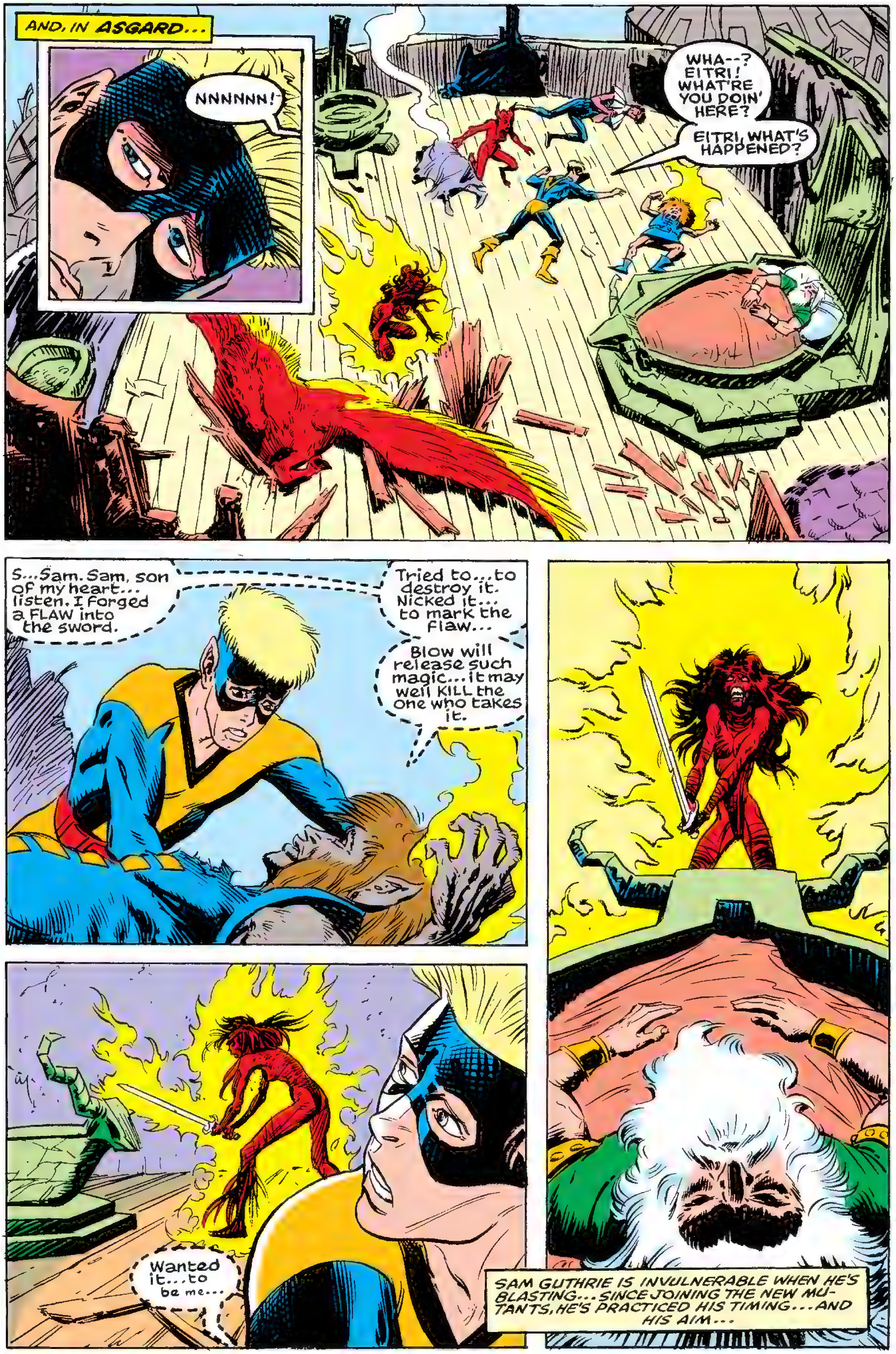

THE SHRED-THAT-WAS-MOONSTAR MAY WANT WHAT SHE WANTS, BUT IT IS I WHO *CONTROL* THE BODY...AND THE POWER!
THE DEMON LASHES OUT WITH FLAME.
SAM THRUSTS RAHNE ASIDE TO TAKE THE BLOW HIMSELF.
REASONIN' WITH HER WON'T HELP, RAHNE. *OR* APPEALIN' TO HER BETTER NATURE.
DANI'S LOCKED AWAY...TRAPPED...IN THE DUNGEON OF HER SOUL! IT'S UP TO US TO SET HER FREE!
FLY, CANNONBALL. ▵
THE MORE YOU ACTIVATE YOUR *BLAST FIELD,* THE *WORSE* IT WILL BE FOR YOU...
...FOR THIS IS NO *ORDINARY* FLAME...BUT YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE!
FLAME... INTERACTS WITH... BLAST FIELD...
...FILLING IT WITH...Toxic Gas...
CARE TO TEST ME FURTHER, LITTLE RAHNE?
NOW MOVE ASIDE! LORD ODIN IS WAIT--?!?
CRASH!

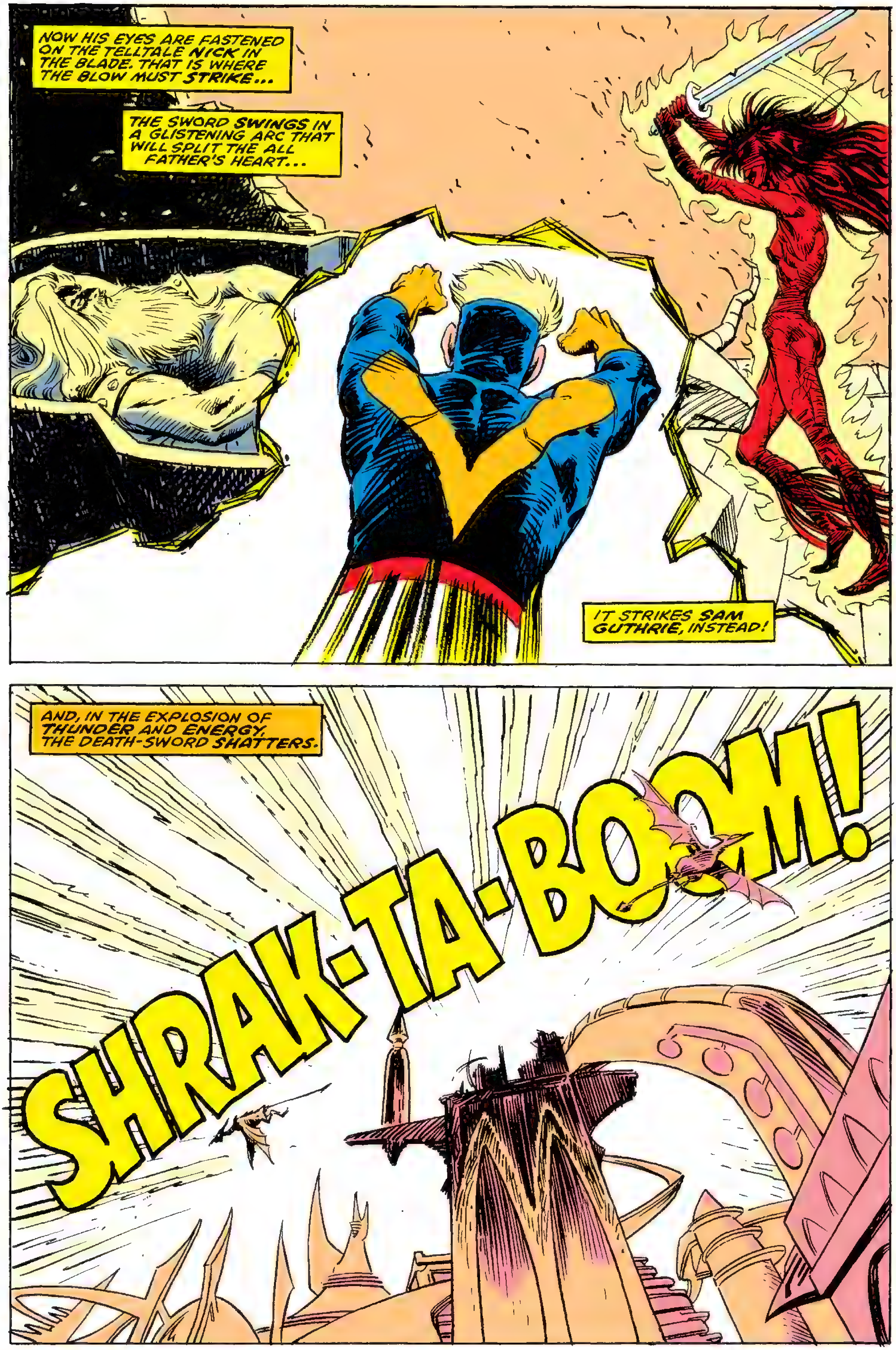

THAT'S ONE APPOINTMENT YOU WON'T KEEP! AND NOW...
WHOOSH!
AAARGH!
BURN!
SNATCHING UP A TAPESTRY, RAHNE SMOTHERS THE FLAMES...
SHE'S *NOT* OUR DARLING DANI ANYMORE, IS SHE? WHY HAS IT TAKEN ME SO LONG TO SEE--?
THE DEMON STAGGERS UP, HURT NOW... BUT DRIVEN BY A NEED BEYOND ITSELF...
BLOOD! THE *SWORD* NEEDS... *BLOOD!*
CRASH!
SUDDENLY, THE CHAMBER DOOR IS SPLINTERED BY A FORGER'S HAMMER--
IF THE SWORD NEEDS *BLOOD...*

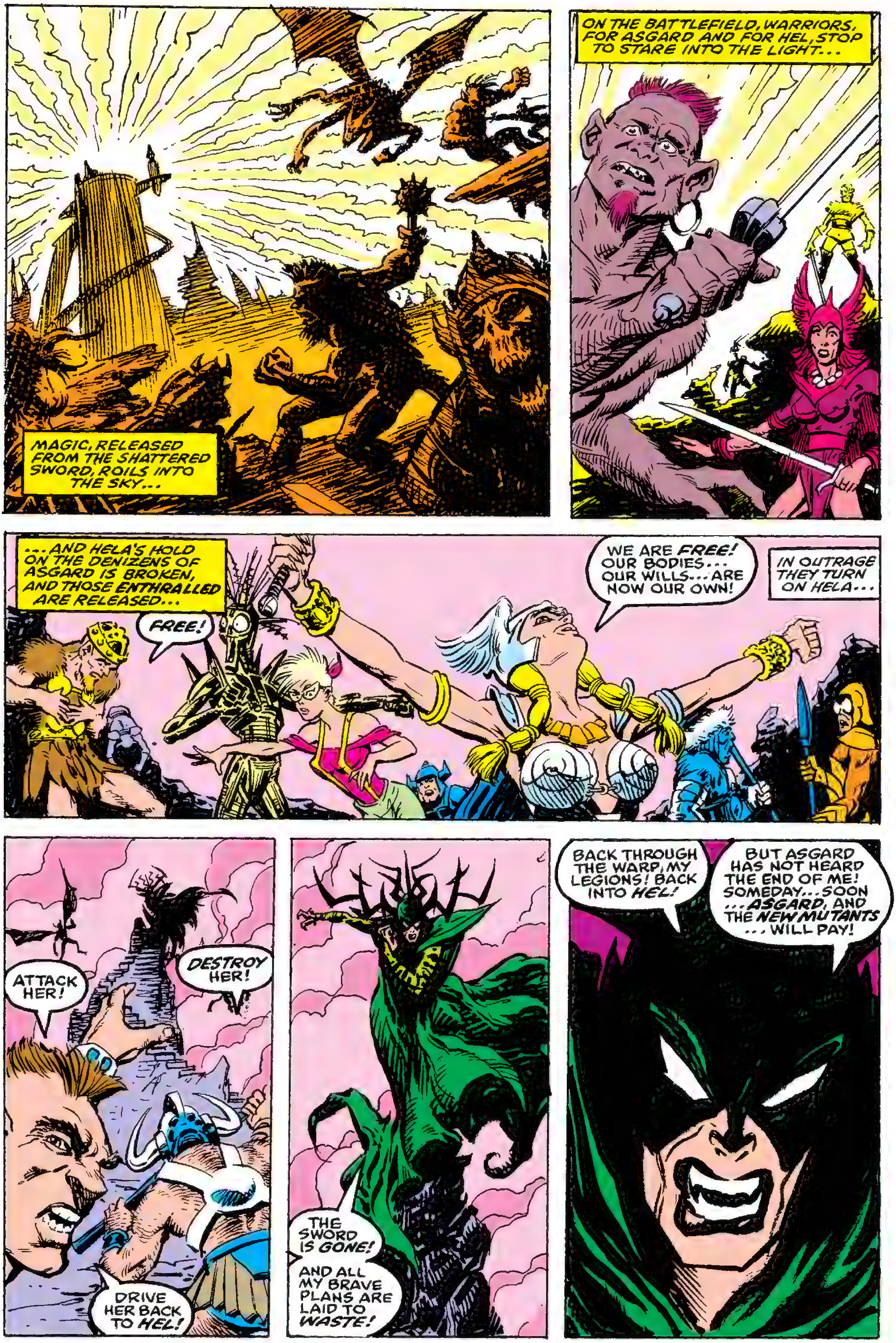

...THEN LET IT DRINK *MINE!*
KLANG!
FOOL! THE BLADE! YOU HAVE DAMAGED THE BLADE!
AND HER FURY ENGULFS LORD EITRI IN A SHEET OF FLAME!

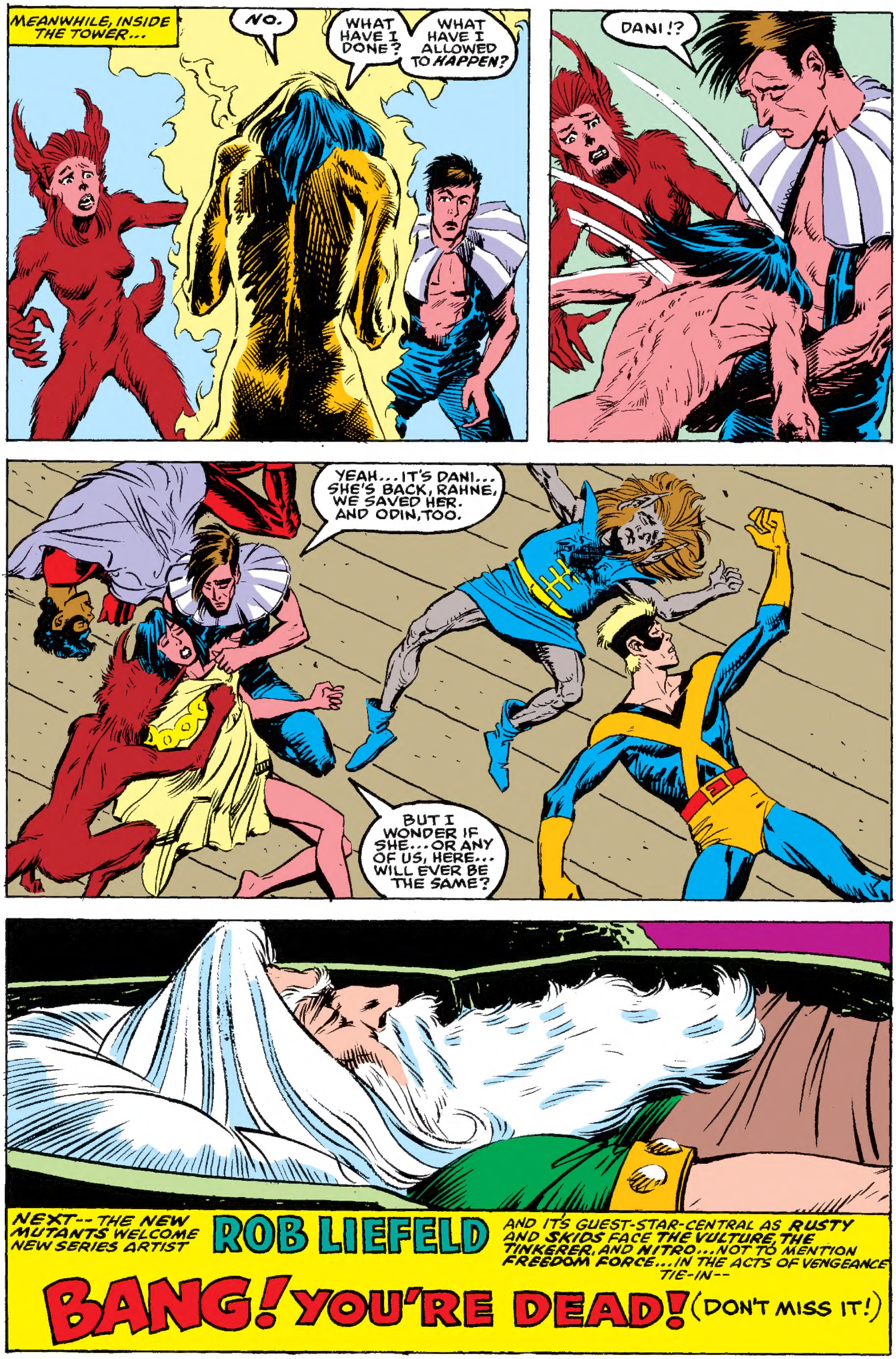

MEANWHILE, DIMENSIONS AWAY, IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, THE UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED NEW MUTANT, RUSTY COLLINS, HAS TACKLED THE HALF-MAD VULTURE AS HE ESCAPES FROM FEDERAL PRISON...
THE OTHER PRISONERS WILL SCORN ME NO LONGER!
I SHALL RELEASE NITRO FROM HIS CONTAINER... AND CREATE SUCH DEVASTATION THAT THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE AT THE MENTION OF THE VULTURE'S NAME!
SORRY, VULTURE, I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
NOW GIVE IT UP! LAND... OR I IGNITE YOUR WINGS AND BURN THEM TO SHREDS!
NO. PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME. EVEN NOW, I AM CRUISING FOR THE GROUND...
...BUT IT IS YOU WHO WILL LAND... AND LAND HARD! HA-HA!
FENCE! ELECTRIFIED! YOWWW!
SHTAKT!
THE VULTURE WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY, YOU HEROIC FOOL!
PONDER THAT--WHILE I FLY FREE!
AND THE NEW MUTANT CALLED SKIDS, HAS ALSO BEEN IMPRISONED.
HORROR STRICKEN, SHE HAS WATCHED THE FIGHT FROM HER CELL WINDOW, AND NOW--
RUSTY! PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT.
AND IN THE GUARD TOWER...
ESCAPING PRISONER! IT'S THE MUTANT! THEY WARNED US ABOUT HIM!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
NEW YORK CORRECTIONAL
HALT--HALT OR I SHOOT!
CUT IT OUT!
IT'S NOT ME WHO'S ESCAPING, YOU IDIOTS! IT'S THE VULTURE!
WHOOMPH!
SKIDS, CAN YOU HEAR ME... WE HAVE TO STOP HIM! STAND BACK FROM YOUR WINDOW, AND LET ME BURN YOU FREE!

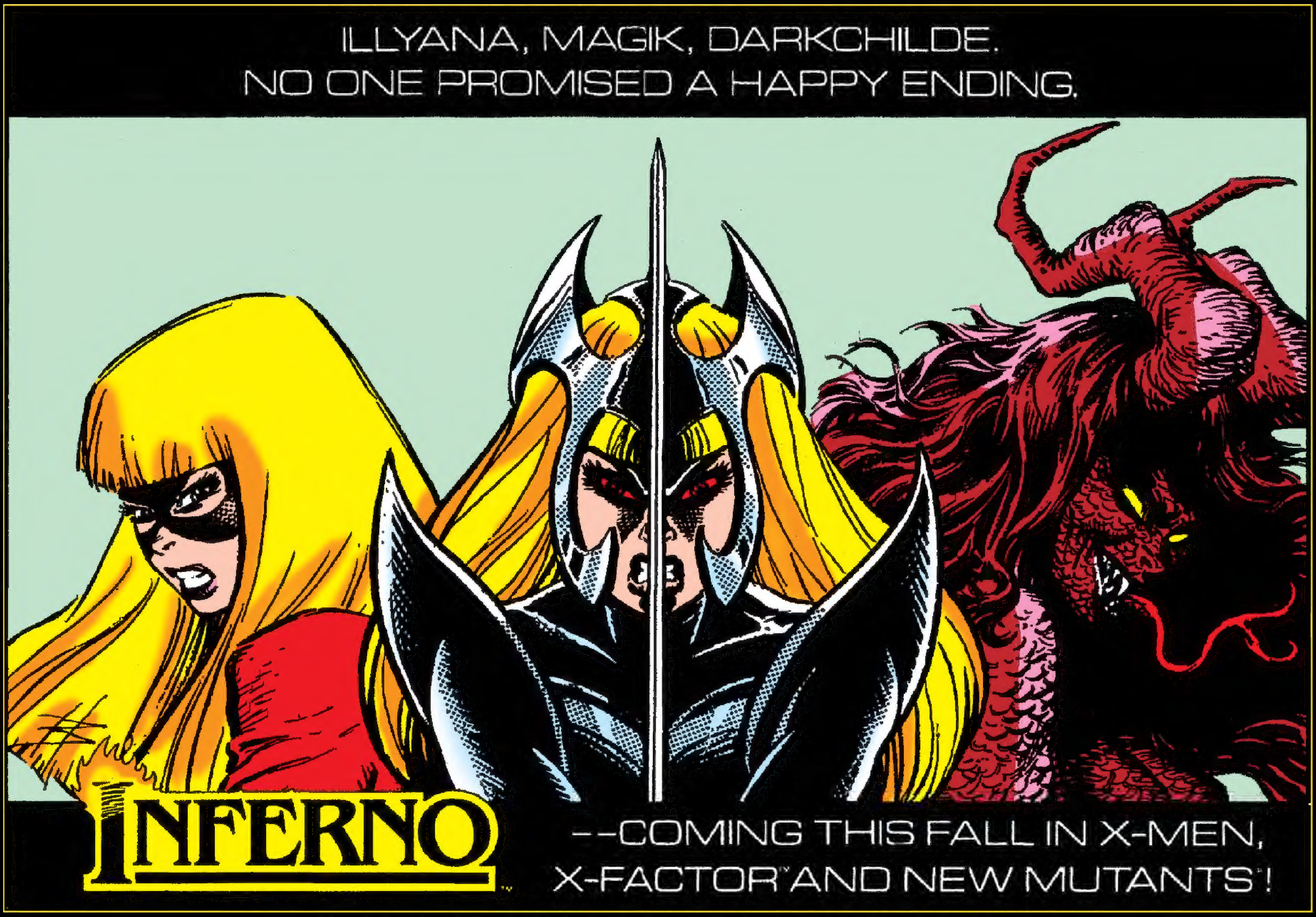

RUSTY BARELY GESTURES AND SOLID STEEL BARS IGNITE. SKIDS, HURLS HERSELF PAST THE FLAMES AND OUT THE WINDOW...
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING--?
DON'T WORRY, SILLY. MY DEFLECTOR FIELD IS UNDER ME... LIKE A CUSHION! I WON'T BE HURT!
AND SOON IT WILL SURROUND US... PROTECTING US BOTH!
BUT, RUSTY, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? WHY DO YOU CARE IF THE VULTURE ESCAPES?
WHY HELP THE HUMANS ANYWAY? THEY'RE THE ONES WHO JAILED US!
B-DOW!
BLAM!
BAM!
BECAUSE THE VULTURE IS GOING TO FREE NITRO!
WHO--?
HE'S SOME TYPE OF MADMAN WITH THE POWER TO CAUSE INCREDIBLE EXPLOSIONS. HE'S BEEN KEPT IN A RESTRAINING CANISTER THAT KEEPS HIM FROM EXPLODING.
HE'S ON TRIAL IN HIS CANISTER... UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.
5071
THERE ARE REPORTERS, PICKETERS FOR CIVIL LIBERTY, LOTS OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS, IN AND AROUND THE COURTHOUSE.
AND UNLESS WE CAN STOP IT, THE VULTURE WILL RELEASE HIM... AND NITRO WILL EXPLODE!
AND HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE!


AND, IN ASGARD...
NNNNNN!
WHA--? EITRI! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?
EITRI, WHAT'S HAPPENED?
S...Sam. Sam, son of my heart... listen. I forged a FLAW into the sword.
Tried to...to destroy it. Nicked it... to mark the flaw...
Blow will release such magic...it may well KILL the one who takes it.
Wanted it...to be me...
SAM GUTHRIE IS INVULNERABLE WHEN HE'S BLASTING... SINCE JOINING THE NEW MUTANTS, HE'S PRACTICED HIS TIMING...AND HIS AIM...

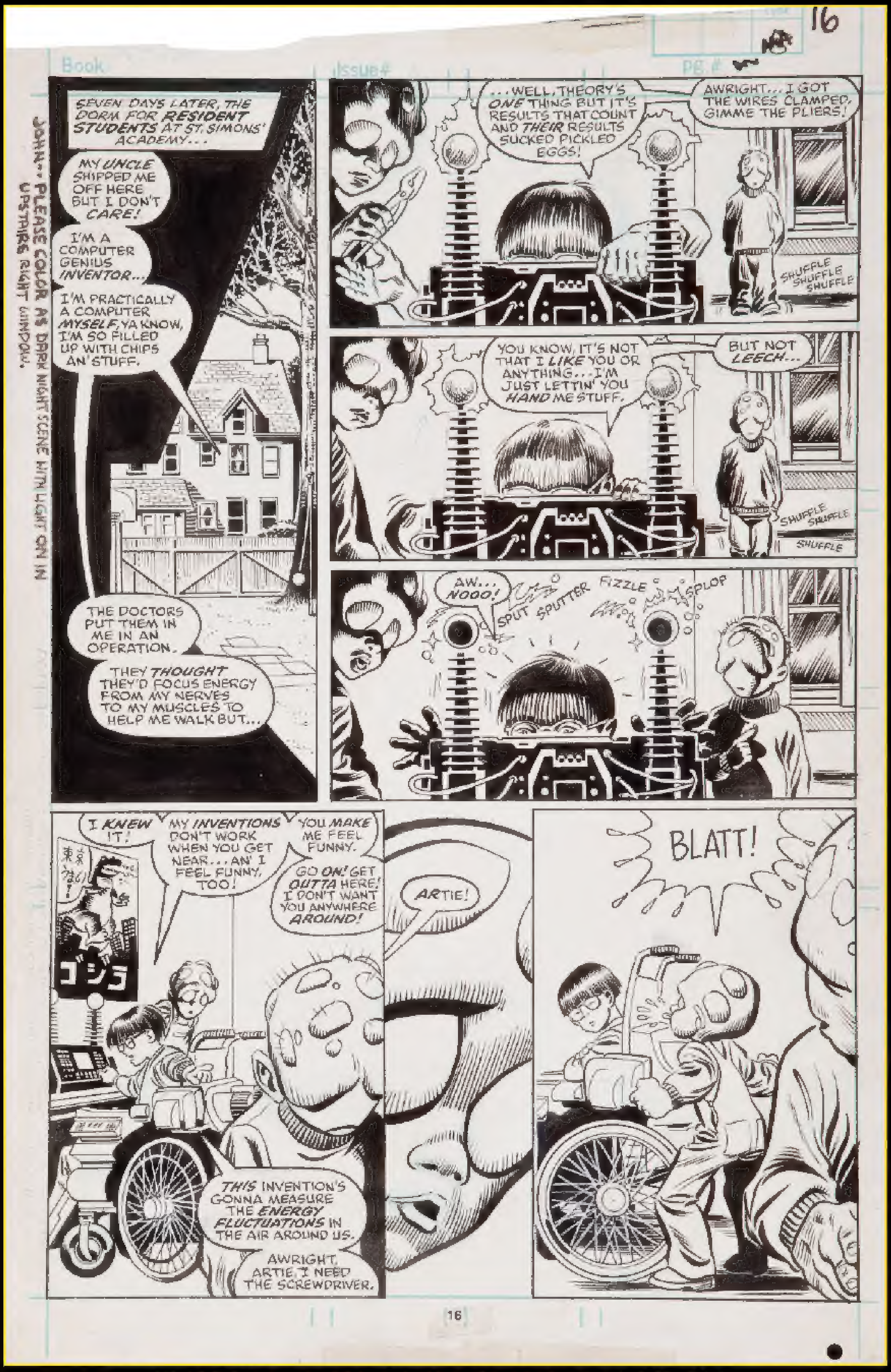

NOW HIS EYES ARE FASTENED ON THE TELLTALE NICK IN THE BLADE. THAT IS WHERE THE BLOW MUST STRIKE...
THE SWORD SWINGS IN A GLISTENING ARC THAT WILL SPLIT THE ALL FATHER'S HEART...
IT STRIKES SAM GUTHRIE, INSTEAD!
AND, IN THE EXPLOSION OF THUNDER AND ENERGY, THE DEATH-SWORD SHATTERS.
SHRAK-TA-BOOM!


MAGIC, RELEASED FROM THE SHATTERED SWORD, ROILS INTO THE SKY...
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WARRIORS, FOR ASGARD AND FOR HEL, STOP TO STARE INTO THE LIGHT...
...AND HELA'S HOLD ON THE DENIZENS OF ASGARD IS BROKEN, AND THOSE *ENTHRALLED* ARE RELEASED...
FREE!
WE ARE *FREE!* OUR BODIES... OUR WILLS... ARE NOW OUR OWN!
IN OUTRAGE THEY TURN ON HELA...
ATTACK HER!
DESTROY HER!
DRIVE HER BACK TO *HEL!*
THE SWORD IS *GONE!*
AND ALL MY BRAVE PLANS ARE LAID TO *WASTE!*
BACK THROUGH THE WARP, MY LEGIONS! BACK INTO *HEL!*
BUT ASGARD HAS NOT HEARD THE END OF ME! SOMEDAY... SOON ...*ASGARD*, AND THE *NEW MUTANTS* ...WILL PAY!

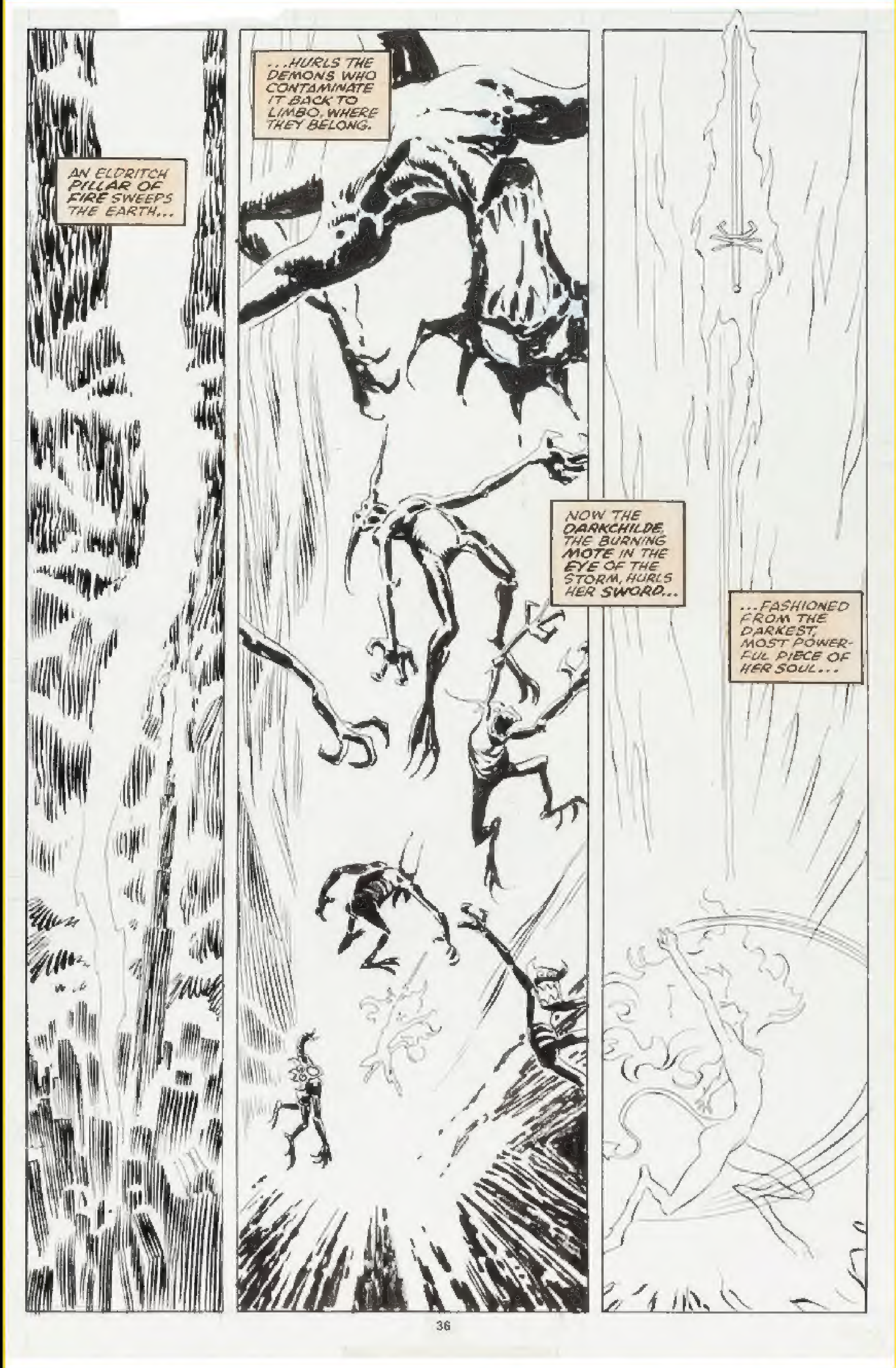

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE TOWER...
NO.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I ALLOWED TO *HAPPEN?*
DANI!?
YEAH... IT'S DANI... SHE'S BACK, RAHNE. WE SAVED HER. AND ODIN, TOO.
BUT I WONDER IF SHE... OR ANY OF US, HERE... WILL EVER BE THE SAME?
NEXT -- THE NEW MUTANTS WELCOME NEW SERIES ARTIST
ROB LIEFELD
AND IT'S GUEST-STAR-CENTRAL AS **RUSTY** AND **SKIDS** FACE **THE VULTURE, THE TINKERER, AND NITRO**... NOT TO MENTION **FREEDOM FORCE**... IN THE ACTS OF VENGEANCE TIE-IN --
BANG! YOU'RE DEAD! (DON'T MISS IT!)


ILLYANA, MAGIK, DARKCHILDE.
NO ONE PROMISED A HAPPY ENDING.
INFERNO
--COMING THIS FALL IN X-MEN, X-FACTOR™ AND NEW MUTANTS™!

***NEW MUTANTS* LETTERS-PAGE INFERNO AD BY BRET BLEVINS**

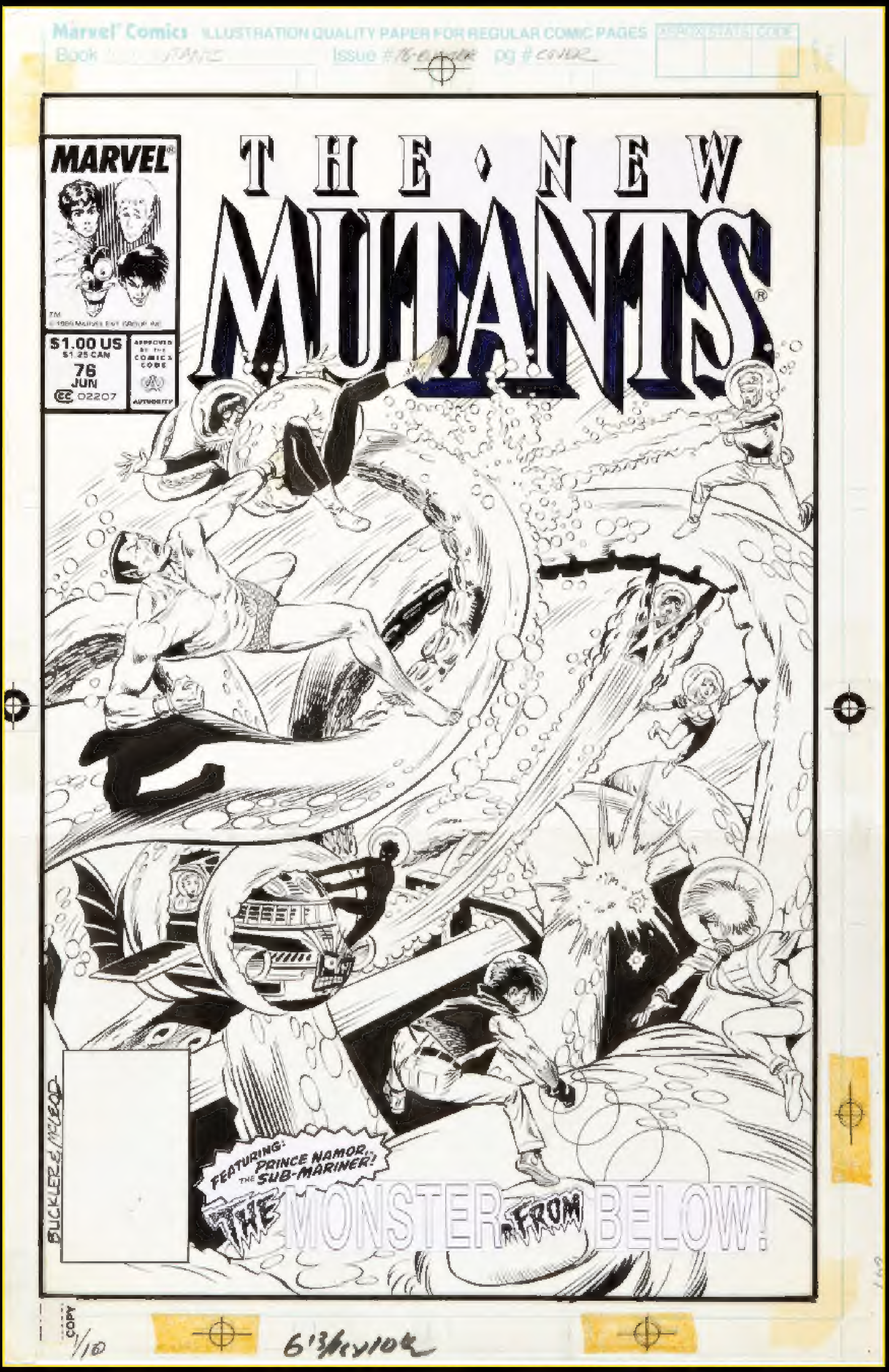

16
Book
Issue#
PG #
SEVEN DAYS LATER, THE DORM FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS AT ST. SIMONS' ACADEMY...
JOHN-- PLEASE COLOR AS DARK NIGHT SCENE WITH LIGHT ON IN UPSTAIRS RIGHT WINDOW.
MY UNCLE SHIPPED ME OFF HERE BUT I DON'T CARE!
I'M A COMPUTER GENIUS INVENTOR...
I'M PRACTICALLY A COMPUTER MYSELF, YA KNOW, I'M SO FILLED UP WITH CHIPS AN' STUFF.
THE DOCTORS PUT THEM IN ME IN AN OPERATION.
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D FOCUS ENERGY FROM MY NERVES TO MY MUSCLES TO HELP ME WALK BUT...
...WELL, THEORY'S ONE THING BUT IT'S RESULTS THAT COUNT AND THEIR RESULTS SUCKED PICKLED EGGS!
AWRIGHT... I GOT THE WIRES CLAMPED. GIMME THE PLIERS!
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE YOU OR ANYTHING... I'M JUST LETTIN' YOU HAND ME STUFF.
BUT NOT LEECH...
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
AW... NOOO!
SPUT SPUTTER FIZZLE SPLOP
I KNEW IT!
MY INVENTIONS DON'T WORK WHEN YOU GET NEAR... AN' I FEEL FUNNY, TOO!
YOU MAKE ME FEEL FUNNY.
GO ON! GET OUTTA HERE! I DON'T WANT YOU ANYWHERE AROUND!
ARTIE!
東京
ゴジラ
THIS INVENTION'S GONNA MEASURE THE ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS IN THE AIR AROUND US.
AWRIGHT, ARTIE, I NEED THE SCREWDRIVER.
BLATT!
16

***X-TERMINATORS #1*, PAGE 13 ART BY**
JON BOGDANOVE, AL WILLIAMSON & AL MILGROM


AN ELDRITCH PILLAR OF FIRE SWEEPS THE EARTH...
...HURLS THE DEMONS WHO CONTAMINATE IT BACK TO LIMBO, WHERE THEY BELONG.
NOW THE DARKCHILDE, THE BURNING MOTE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM, HURLS HER SWORD...
...FASHIONED FROM THE DARKEST, MOST POWER-FUL PIECE OF HER SOUL...
36

***NEW MUTANTS #73*, PAGE 32 ART BY**
BRET BLEVINS, AL WILLIAMSON & MIKE MANLEY

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM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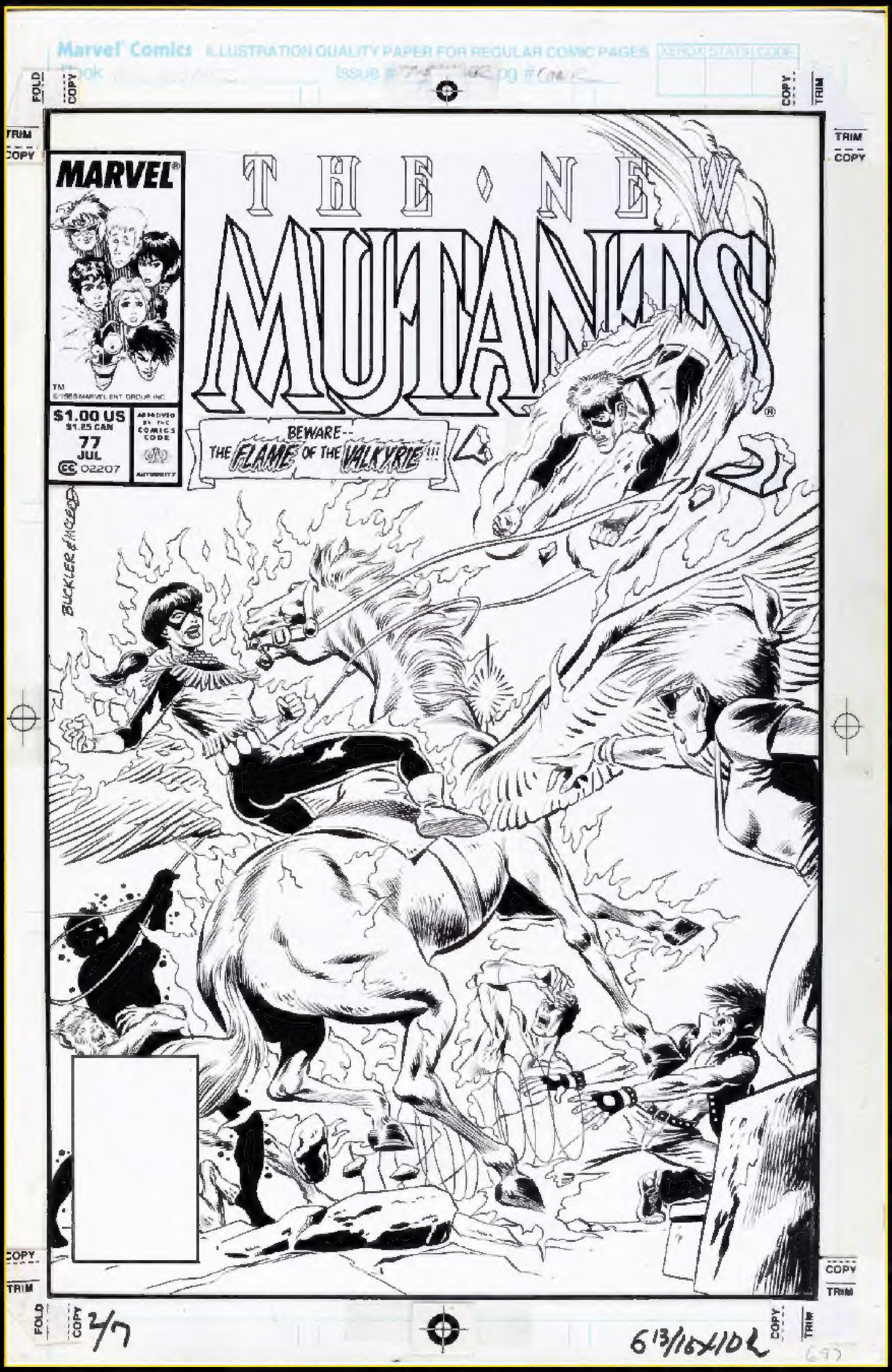
THE MONSTER FROM BELOW!
BUCKLER & McLEOD
1/10
6 3/16 x 10 1/2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BEWARE-- THE FLAME OF THE VALKYRIE!!!
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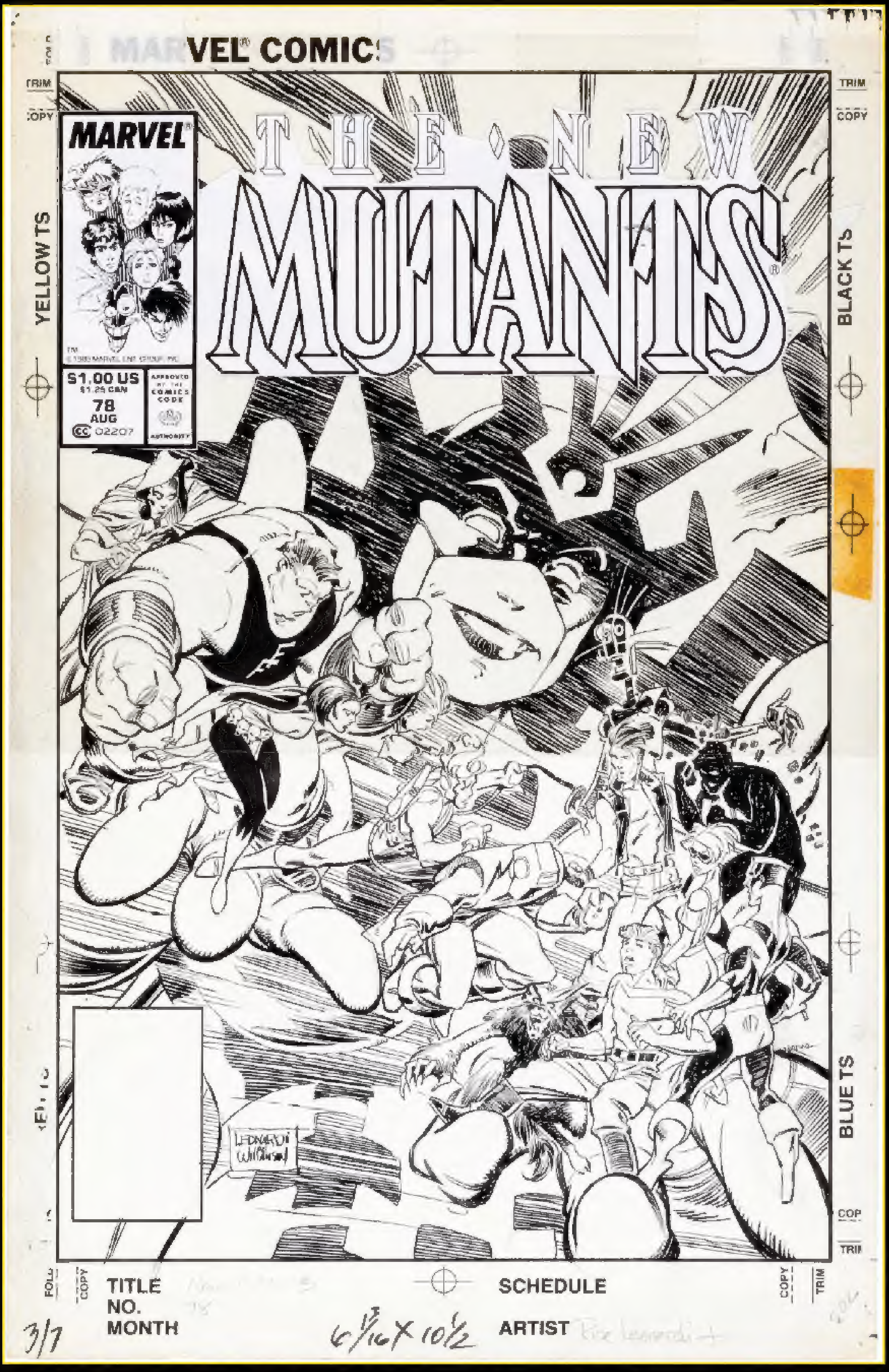
NEW MUTANTS #76-77 COVER ART BY RICH BUCKLER & BOB McLEOD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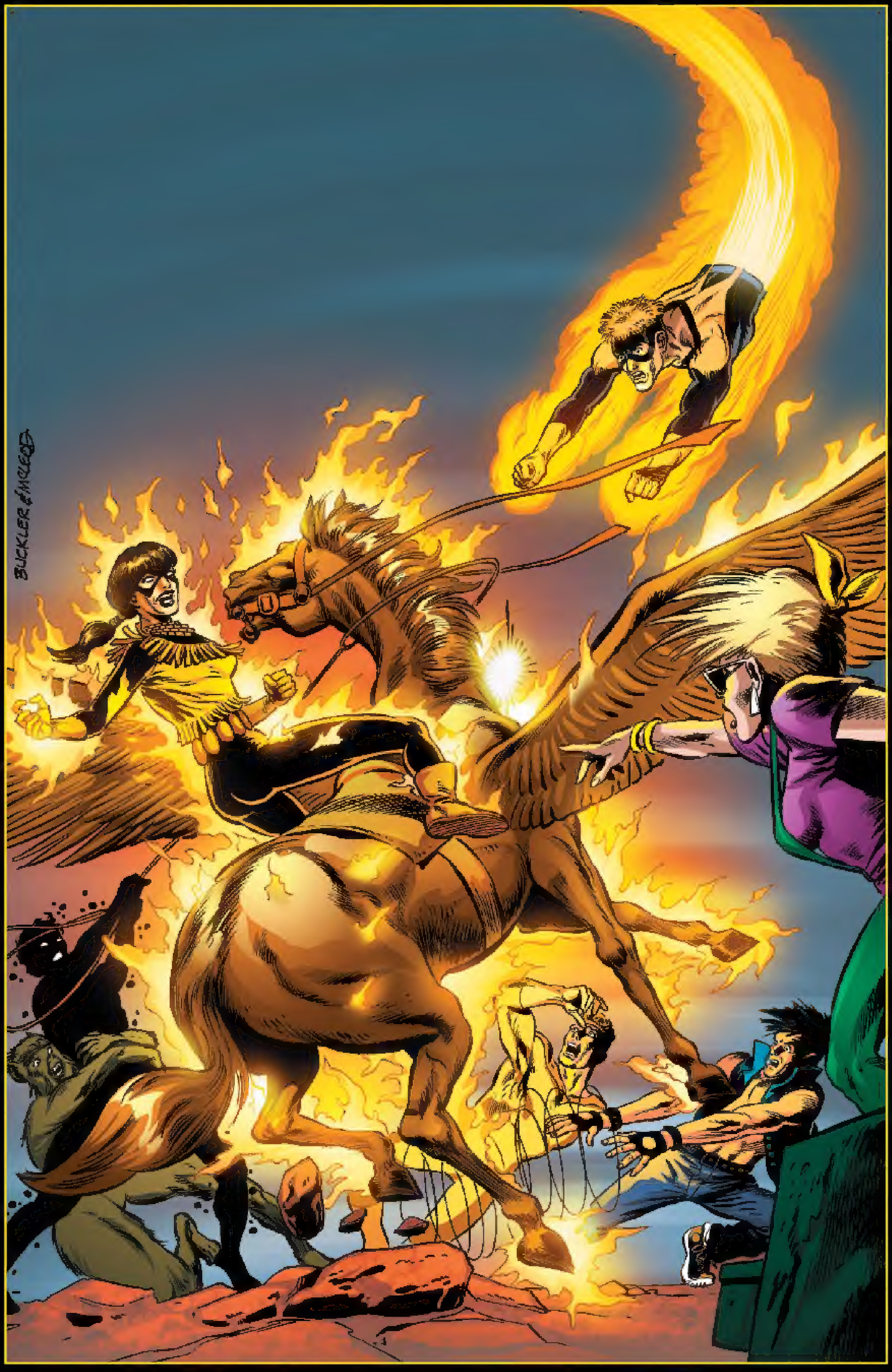
BLACKS
BLUES
LEONARDI WILLIAMSON
TITLE
NO.
MONTH
SCHEDULE
ARTIST
3/7
6 13/16 x 10 1/2


BUCKLER & McLEOD

NEW MUTANTS #78 COVER
ART BY RICK LEONARDI & AL WILLIAMSON
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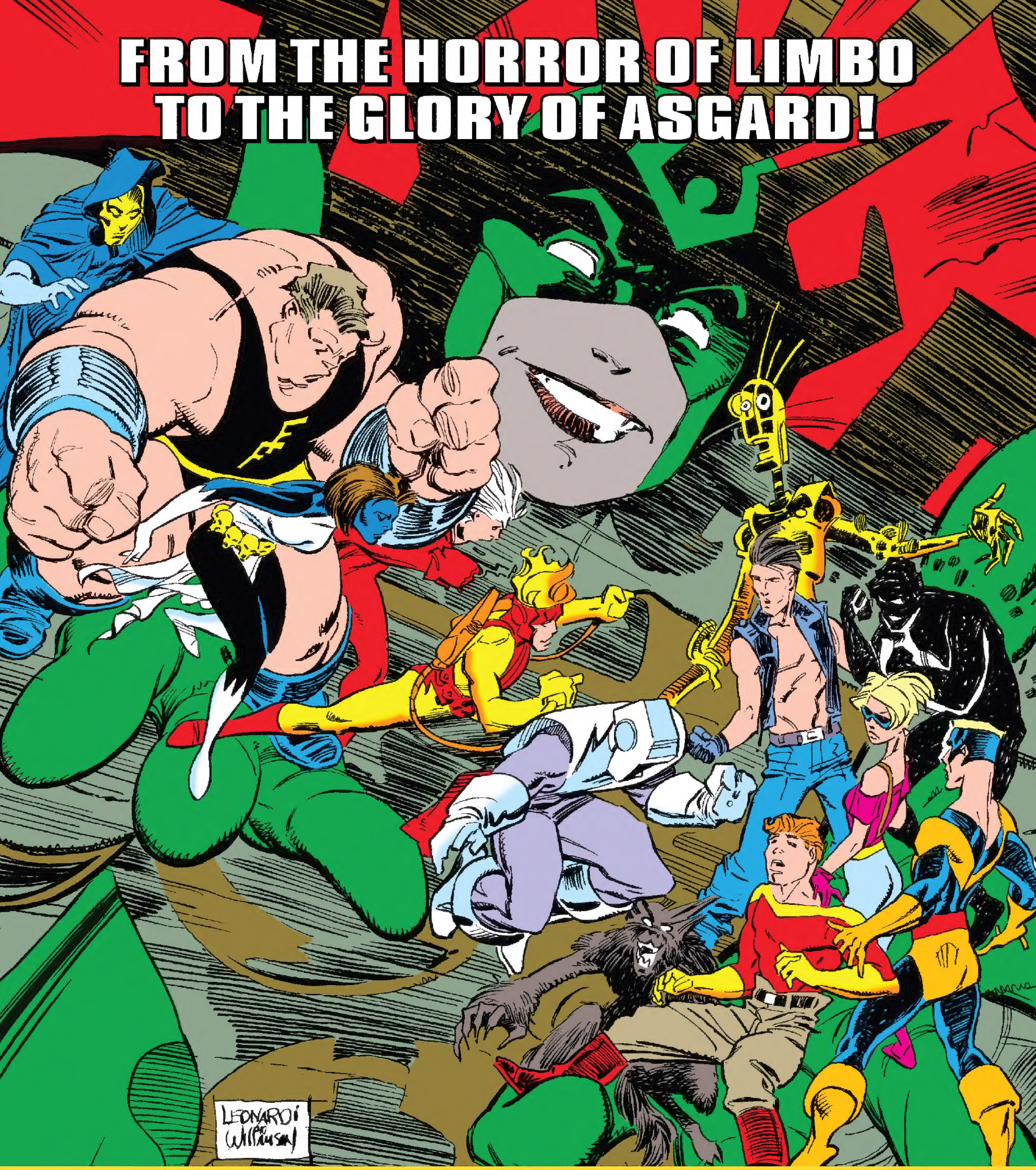

FROM THE HORROR OF LIMBO TO THE GLORY OF ASGARD!

As the fires of Inferno burn, the New Mutants must escape Magik's dark domain — but that leaves the way open for S'ym and his demons to invade Earth! Luckily, X-Factor's former wards, the X-Terminators, are on the scene! Can Rusty, Skids, Boom-Boom, Rictor, Artie, Leech and Wiz Kid help the New Mutants repel an army of demons and save Magik's soul? Then, when Hela's evil spell corrupts Mirage's Valkyrie side, Doctor Strange lends a magical hand! But to cure Mirage completely, the New Mutants must travel to Asgard, home of the mighty Norse gods! The trouble is, Hela is scheming to murder Odin and conquer Asgard! Will a handful of mortal mutants be enough to defeat the Goddess of Death?

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